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APPROVED
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THE MIGHTY AVENGERS

IN
THIS
ISSUE!

THE VISION TAKES COMMAND!

STARFOX
BATTLES
BANDITS!

SCARLET WITCH
FIGHTS A FIRE!

AND EARTH'S
MIGHTIEST HEROES
RETURN FROM
THE SECRET WARS!



JOHN'S NOV 7 1984

Stan Lee presents

CHAIN OF COMMAND!

"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, HERE NOW,
LIVE FROM AVENGERS' MANSION...
THE *VISION*..."

GOOD AFTERNOON. AS YOU ALL KNOW,
THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF LOOSE
TALK AND SPECULATION OVER THE
PAST SEVERAL DAYS ABOUT THE DIS-
APPEARANCE OF MEMBERS OF THE
AVENGERS, THE FANTASTIC FOUR,
AND OTHERS*.

CERTAIN IRRESPONSIBLE PEOPLE
HAVE GONE SO FAR AS TO SUGGEST
A CONSPIRACY TO ROB OUR WORLD
OF ITS GREATEST HEROES, TO
SOFTEN US UP FOR SOME
IMAGINED INVASION. THOSE
ARE JUST RUMORS!

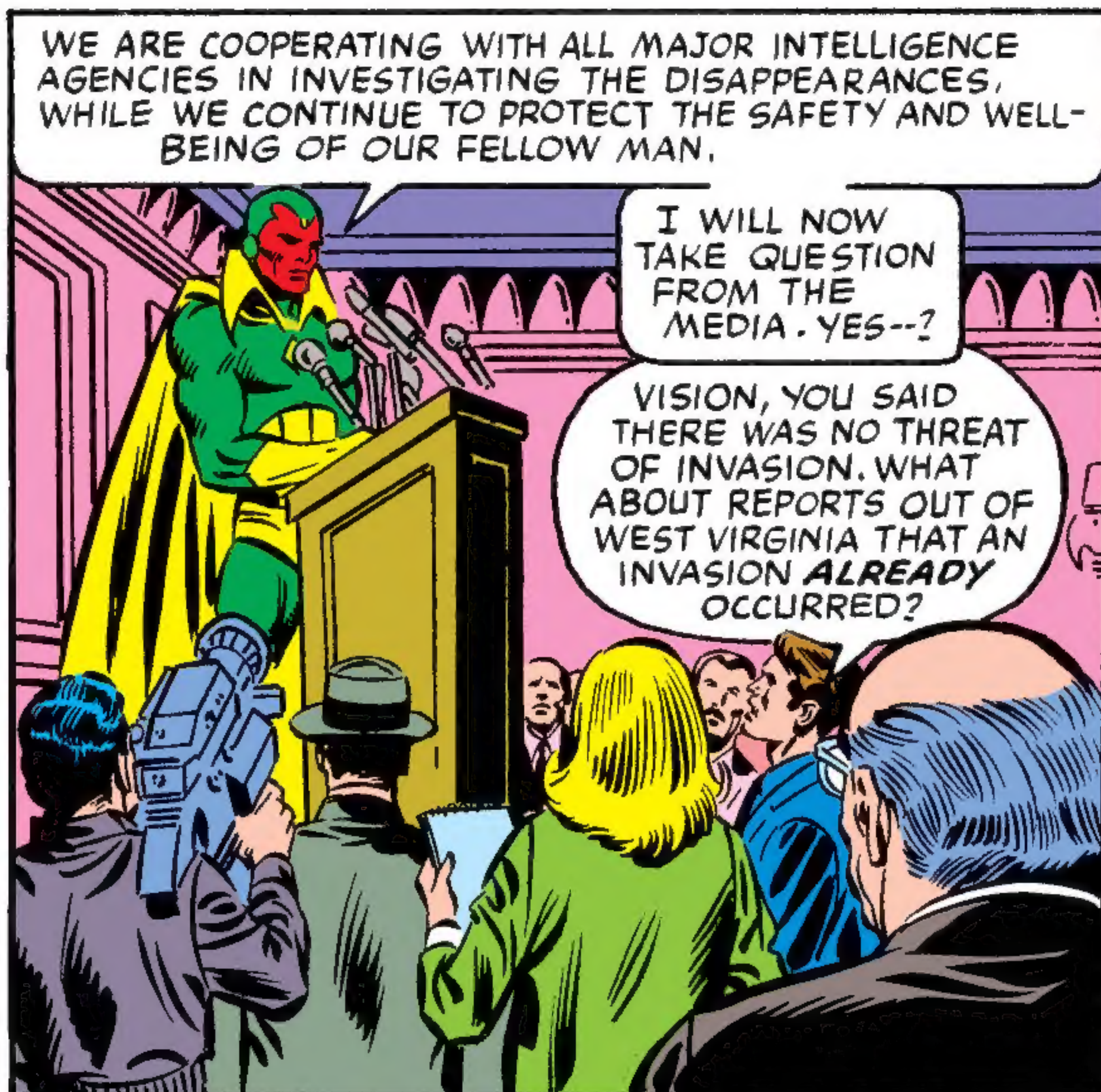
THERE IS NO NEED FOR PANIC! LET ME
ASSURE YOU, THE AVENGERS WILL
CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AS EARTH'S
MIGHTIEST PEACE KEEPING FORCE!

THERE HAS BEEN, AND THERE WILL
BE, NO LAPSE IN LEADERSHIP! I
HAVE PERSONALLY
ASSUMED CONTROL!



* SEE AVENGERS #242, THING #10, IRON MAN #181, HULK #294, AMAZ. SPIDER-MAN #251, and X-MEN #180!

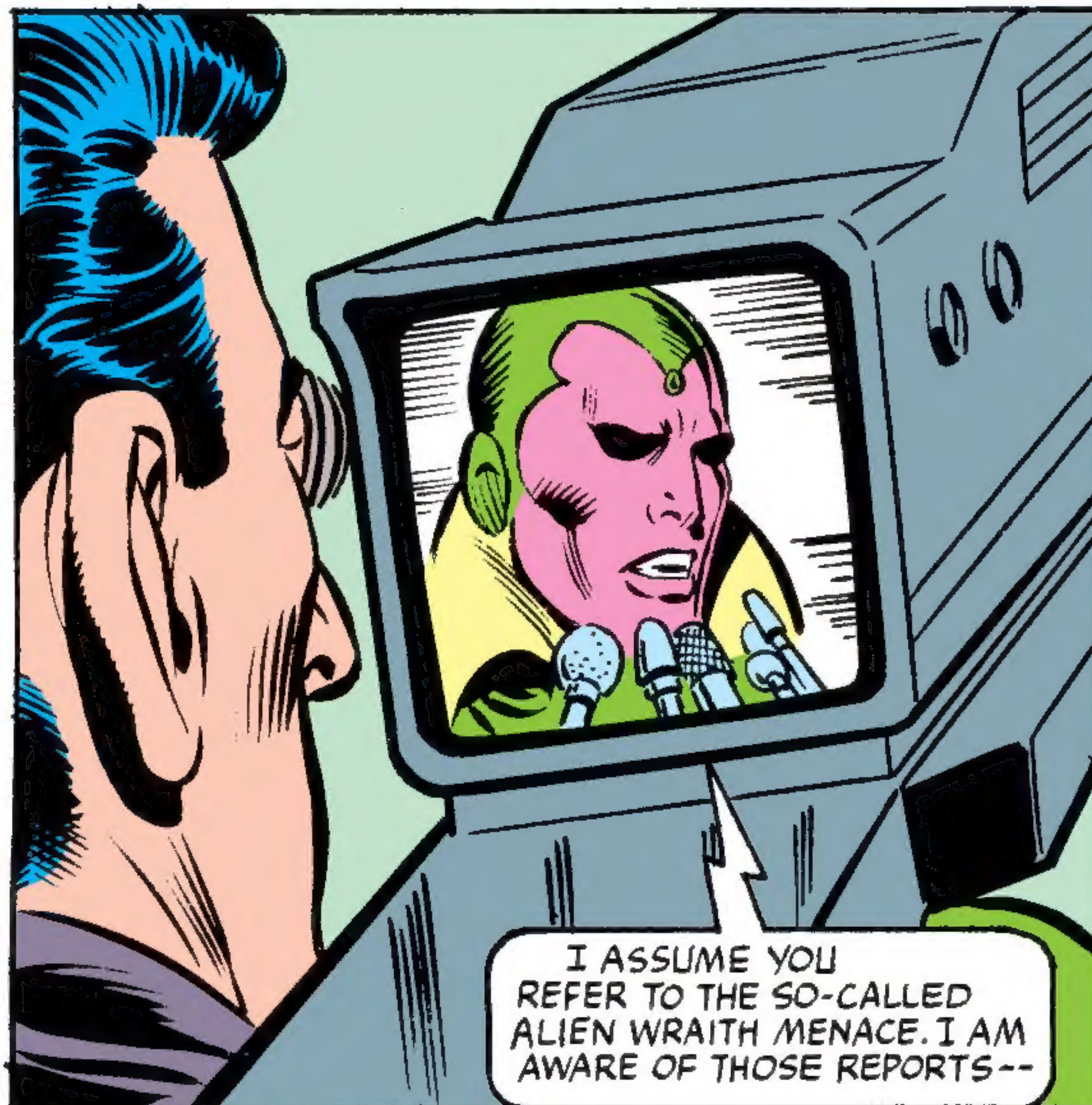
ROGER STERN	ALLEN MILGROM	JOE SINNOTT	JOHN MORELLI	JULIANNA FERRITER	MARK GRUENWALD	JIM SHOOTER
WRITER	PENCILER	INKER	LETTERER	COLORIST	EDITOR	EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



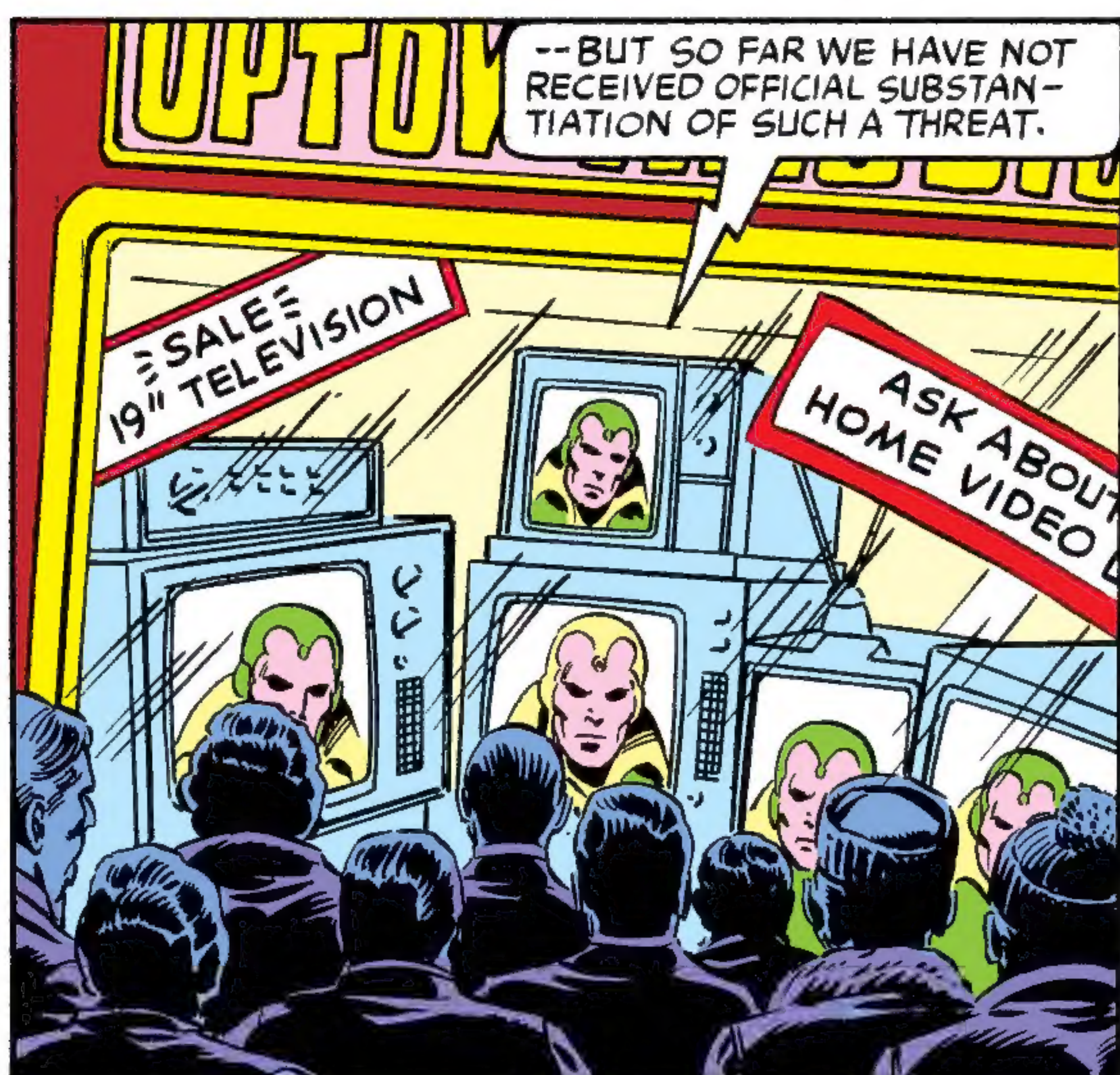
WE ARE COOPERATING WITH ALL MAJOR INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES IN INVESTIGATING THE DISAPPEARANCES, WHILE WE CONTINUE TO PROTECT THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF OUR FELLOW MAN.

I WILL NOW TAKE QUESTION FROM THE MEDIA. YES--?

VISION, YOU SAID THERE WAS NO THREAT OF INVASION. WHAT ABOUT REPORTS OUT OF WEST VIRGINIA THAT AN INVASION **ALREADY** OCCURRED?



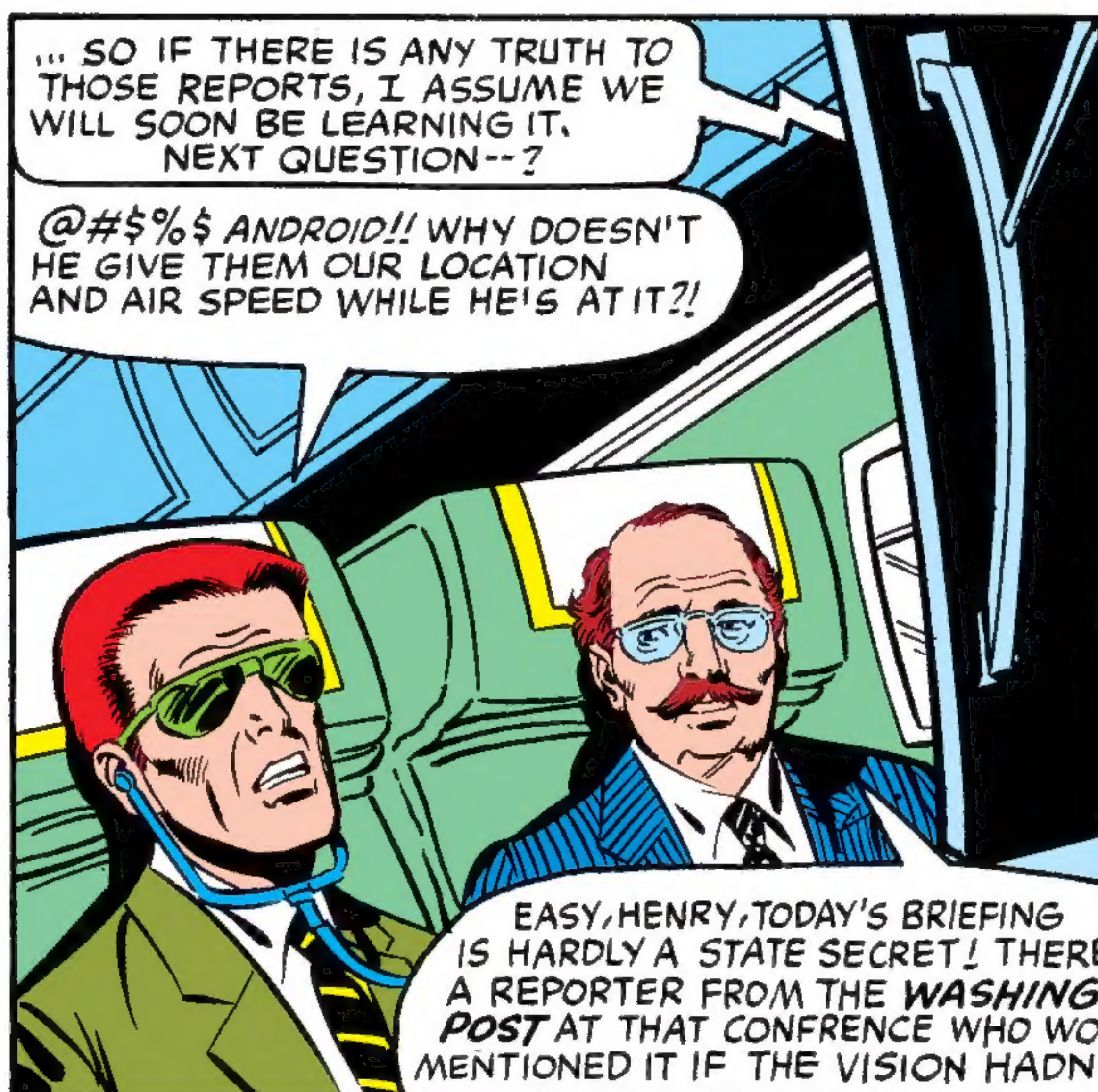
I ASSUME YOU REFER TO THE SO-CALLED ALIEN WRAITH MENACE. I AM AWARE OF THOSE REPORTS--



--BUT SO FAR WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED OFFICIAL SUBSTANTIATION OF SUCH A THREAT.



HOWEVER, I **CAN** TELL YOU THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL ARE AT THIS HOUR HEADED FOR NEW YORK ABOARD **AIR FORCE ONE** FOR A REGULARLY SCHEDULED AVENGERS BRIEFING...



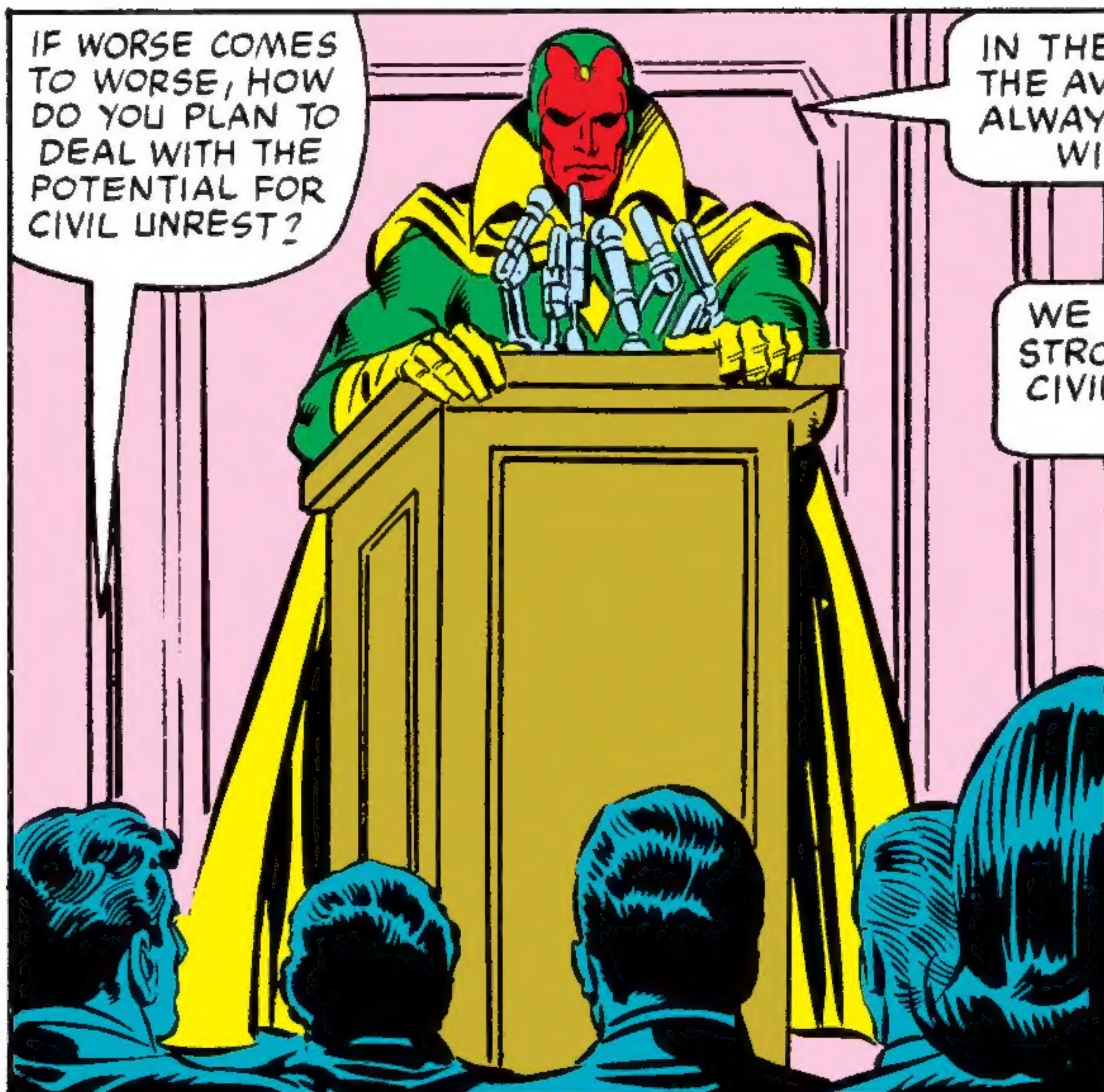
... SO IF THERE IS ANY TRUTH TO THOSE REPORTS, I ASSUME WE WILL SOON BE LEARNING IT. NEXT QUESTION--?

@#%\$ ANDROID!! WHY DOESN'T HE GIVE THEM OUR LOCATION AND AIR SPEED WHILE HE'S AT IT?!

EASY, HENRY. TODAY'S BRIEFING IS HARDLY A STATE SECRET! THERE'S A REPORTER FROM THE **WASHINGTON POST** AT THAT CONFERENCE WHO WOULD'VE MENTIONED IT IF THE VISION HADN'T!

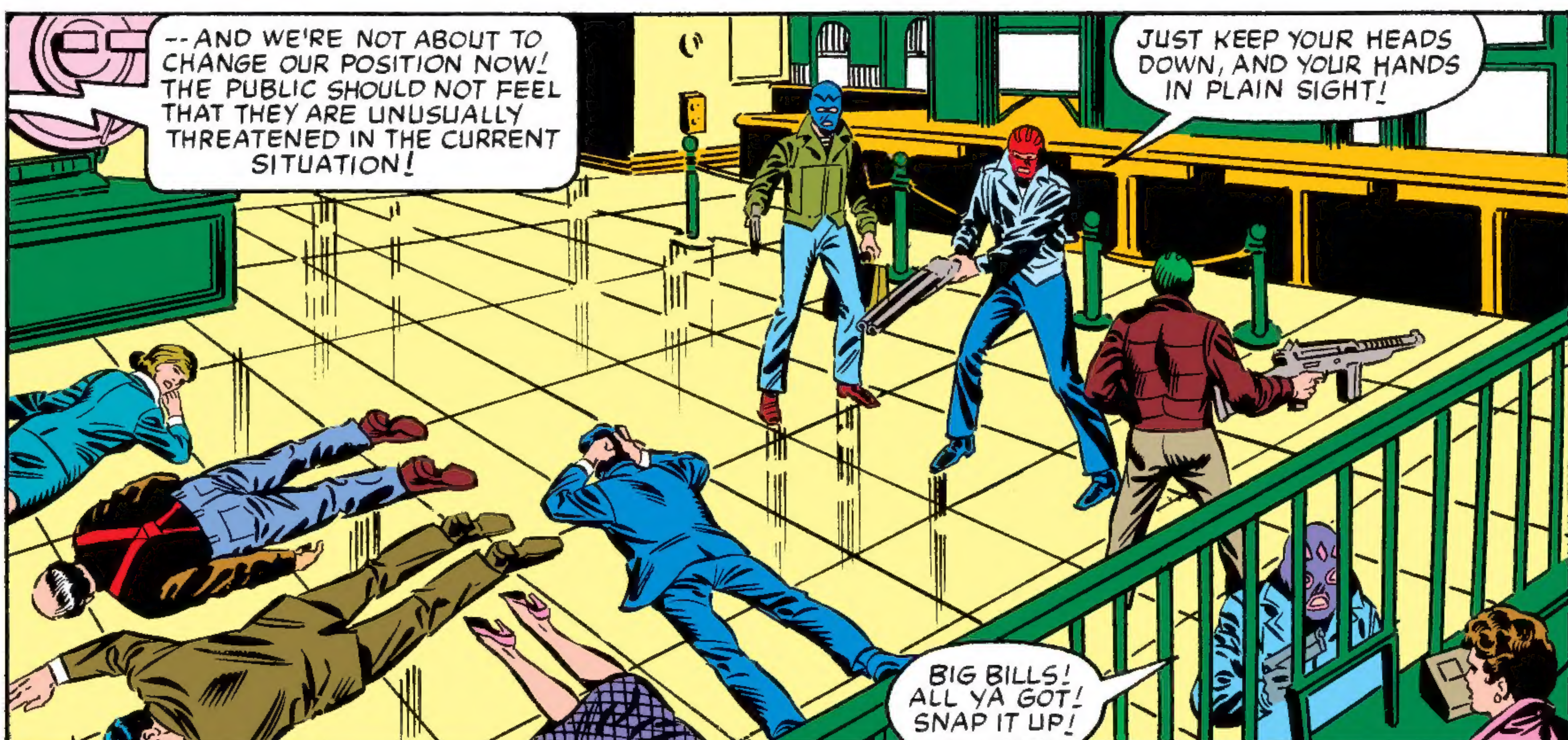
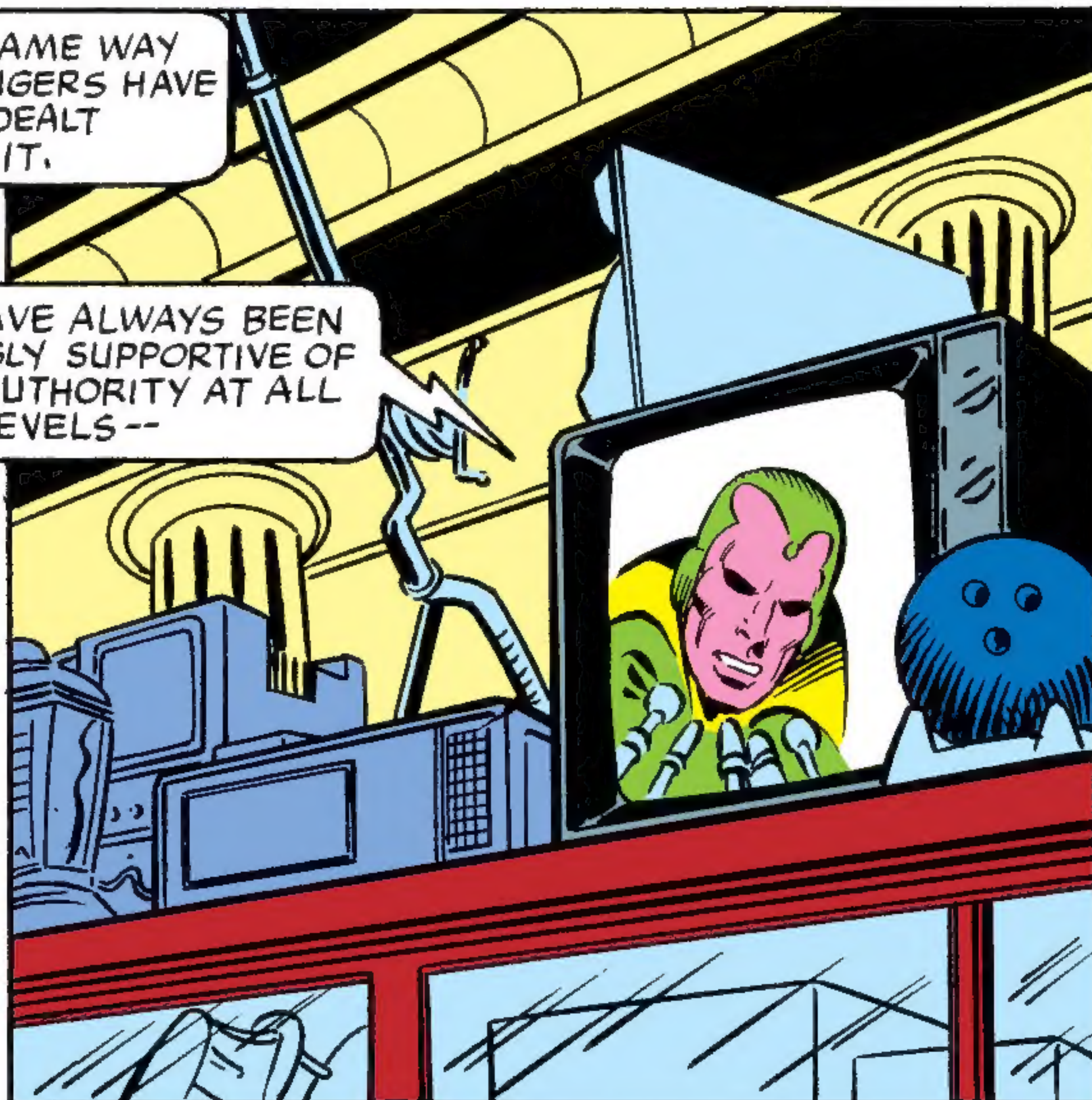


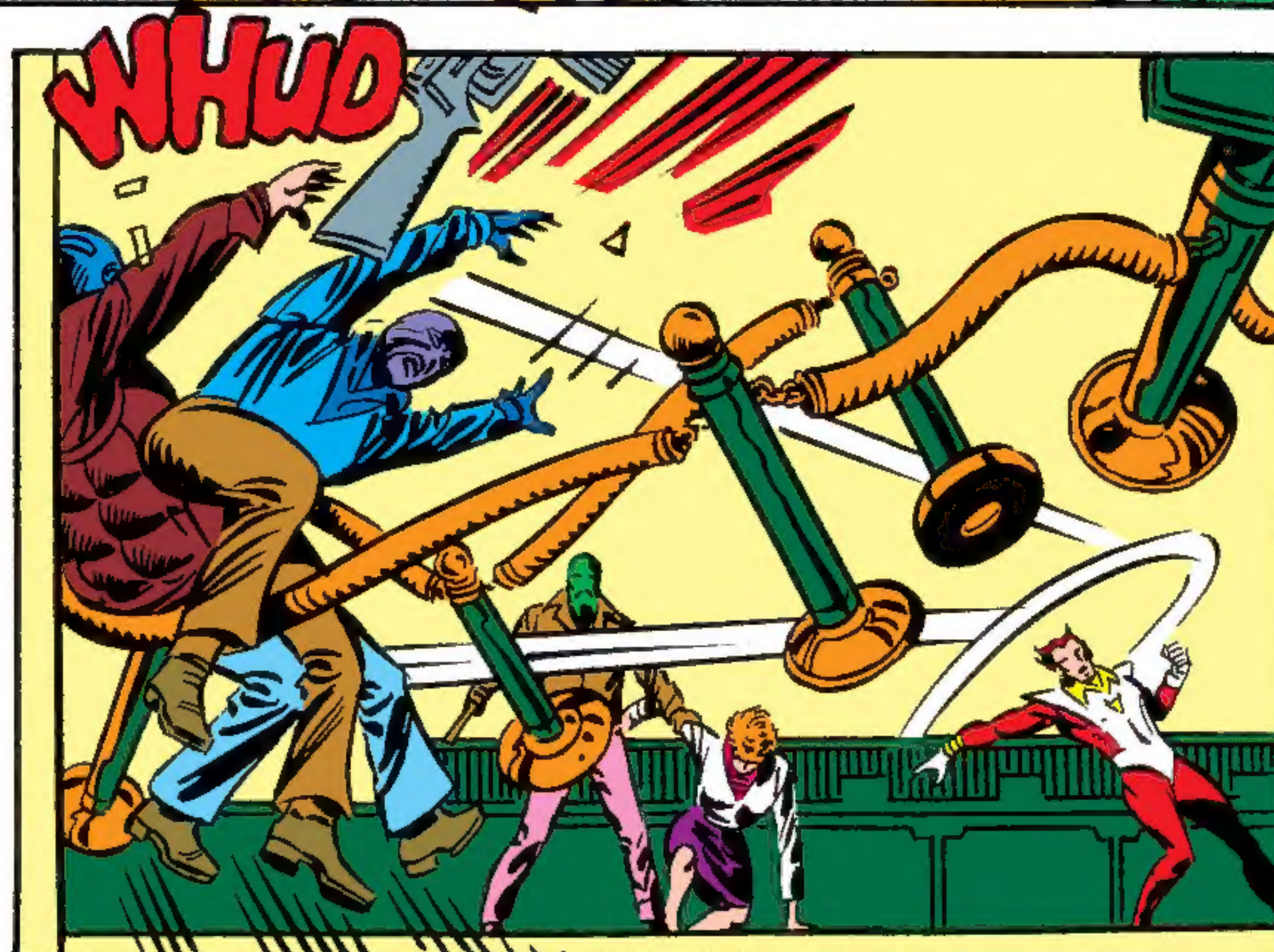
I **KNOW**, RAY. I JUST WISH THE VISION HAD CONSULTED US BEFORE HOLDING A NEWS CONFERENCE. HE WON'T ALLAY ANY FEARS THIS WAY... HE'LL JUST MAKE THINGS **WORSE**!

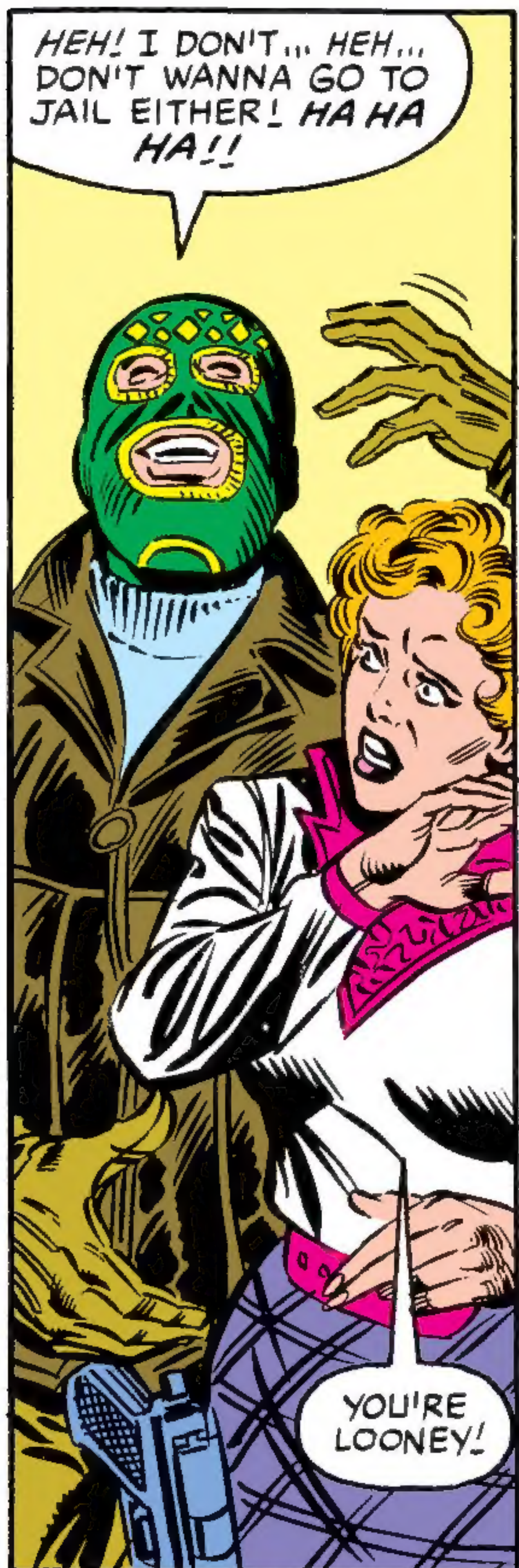
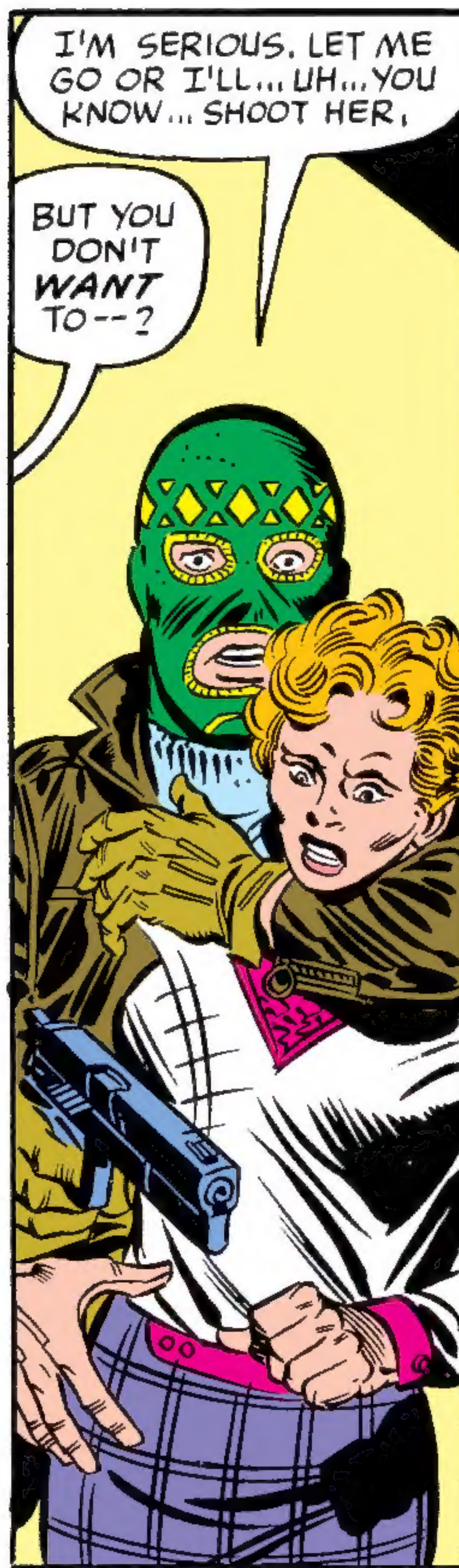


IN THE SAME WAY THE AVENGERS HAVE ALWAYS DEALT WITH IT.

WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF CIVIL AUTHORITY AT ALL LEVELS--









AND, AS JARVIS, THE AVENGERS' BUTLER SEES THE NEWS PEOPLE OUT...

IT DID NOT GO AS I'D HOPED! IT IS THE DUTY OF THESE PEOPLE TO PROBE AND QUESTION, BUT BY THE MANNER OF THEIR QUESTIONING, I COULD TELL THEY DIDN'T ACCEPT MY REASSURANCES.

GOOD AFTERNOON. THANK YOU FOR COMING.

IF THEIR REACTION IS A COMMON ONE, MY SPEECH MAY HAVE DONE MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

SPRINGING UPWARD, THE SYNTHETIC MAN LOWERS HIS DENSITY TO A LEVEL SO SLIGHT, THAT HE PASSES THROUGH THE CEILING--

-- AND THE FLOOR ABOVE.

OMIGOD! WHAT?!!?

VISION!

FORGIVE ME, MOCKINGBIRD. IT WASN'T MY INTENTION TO STARTLE YOU.

CONSIDER YOURSELF FORGIVEN. I USUALLY DON'T STARTLE SO EASILY, BUT I'M STILL NOT USED TO THE WAY YOU ZIP THROUGH WALLS.

HAVE YOU SEEN MRS. RICHARDS ABOUT?

YES. SHE AND ALICIA MASTERS TOOK LITTLE FRANKLIN FOR A WALK.

YOU KNOW, IT WAS AWFULLY NICE OF YOU TO INVITE THEM TO STAY HERE AFTER WE DISCOVERED THE REST OF THE F.F. HAD VANISHED, TOO!

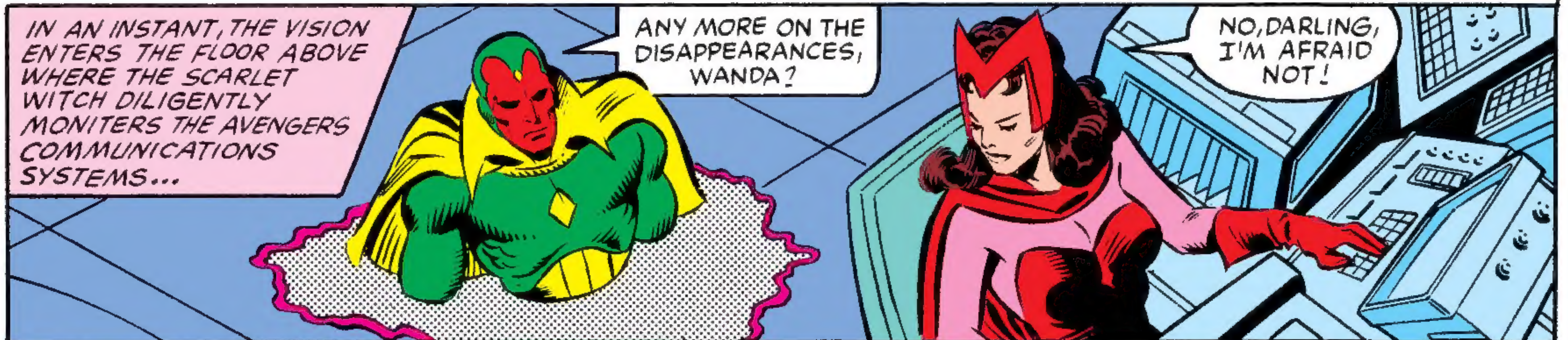
IN TIME OF SUCH UNCERTAINTY, IT WAS ONLY RIGHT TO EXTEND THAT HOSPITALITY. BY THAT SAME TOKEN, YOU SHOULD FEEL FREE TO STAY-- AT LEAST UNTIL WE FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HAWKEYE AND THE OTHERS.

THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME AVENGERS HAVE DISAPPEARED. THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE.

LOOK, VISION, DON'T GIVE ME FALSE HOPE JUST BECAUSE I'M A NEWLYWED. LEVEL WITH ME... IS THERE ANY CHANCE THAT HAWK'S STILL ALIVE?

I WILL NEVER... NEVER GET USED TO THAT!

* SEE FANTASTIC FOUR # 265.



IN AN INSTANT, THE VISION ENTERS THE FLOOR ABOVE WHERE THE SCARLET WITCH DILIGENTLY MONITERS THE AVENGERS COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS...

ANY MORE ON THE DISAPPEARANCES, WANDA?

NO, DARLING, I'M AFRAID NOT!



THEN WE MUST DRAW ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE FACT NO BAD NEWS HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

MMMMMMM I DIDN'T SAY NO BAD NEWS HAD COME IN! AGENTS GYRICH AND SIKORSKI RADIOED THAT THEY'LL BE ARRIVING ON SCHEDULE AND THEY WANT TO SEE YOU RIGHT AWAY! GYRICH DIDN'T SOUND HAPPY.



NO DOUBT HE SAW MY BROADCAST. WELL THAT CAN'T BE HELPED NOW!

WHAT'S OUR PROGRESS ON CONTACTING RESERVE AND INACTIVE AVENGERS?

I'VE BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE THE BLACK PANTHER, WONDER MAN, THE FALCON, AND THE BLACK KNIGHT... THEY'RE STANDING BY FOR AN EMERGENCY ALERT. STILL NO WORD FROM HERCULES OR THE BLACK WIDOW.

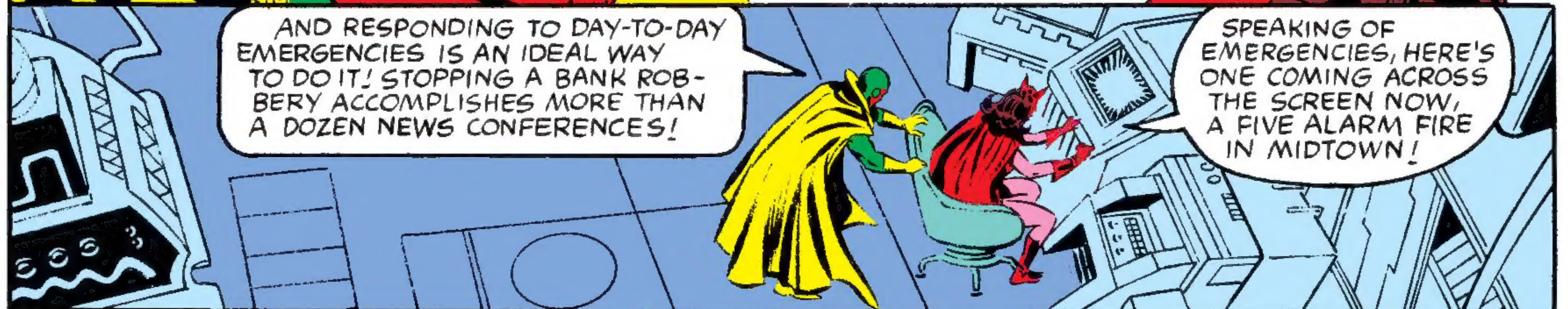
SHOULD I CONTACT MY BROTHER PIETRO?



NO. LET'S RESTRICT OUR CALLS TO THIS PLANET FOR THE TIME BEING. WHERE'S STARFOX?

HE WENT OUT IN ANSWER TO A SILENT ALARM WE PICKED-- MONITORING THE POLICE CIRCUITS, AS YOU SUGGESTED -- AND STOPPED A BANK ROBBERY!

THAT'S EXCELLENT! NOW MORE THAN EVER, THE AVENGERS MUST MAINTAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF VISIBILITY!



AND RESPONDING TO DAY-TO-DAY EMERGENCIES IS AN IDEAL WAY TO DO IT! STOPPING A BANK ROBBERY ACCOMPLISHES MORE THAN A DOZEN NEWS CONFERENCES!

SPEAKING OF EMERGENCIES, HERE'S ONE COMING ACROSS THE SCREEN NOW, A FIVE ALARM FIRE IN MIDTOWN!



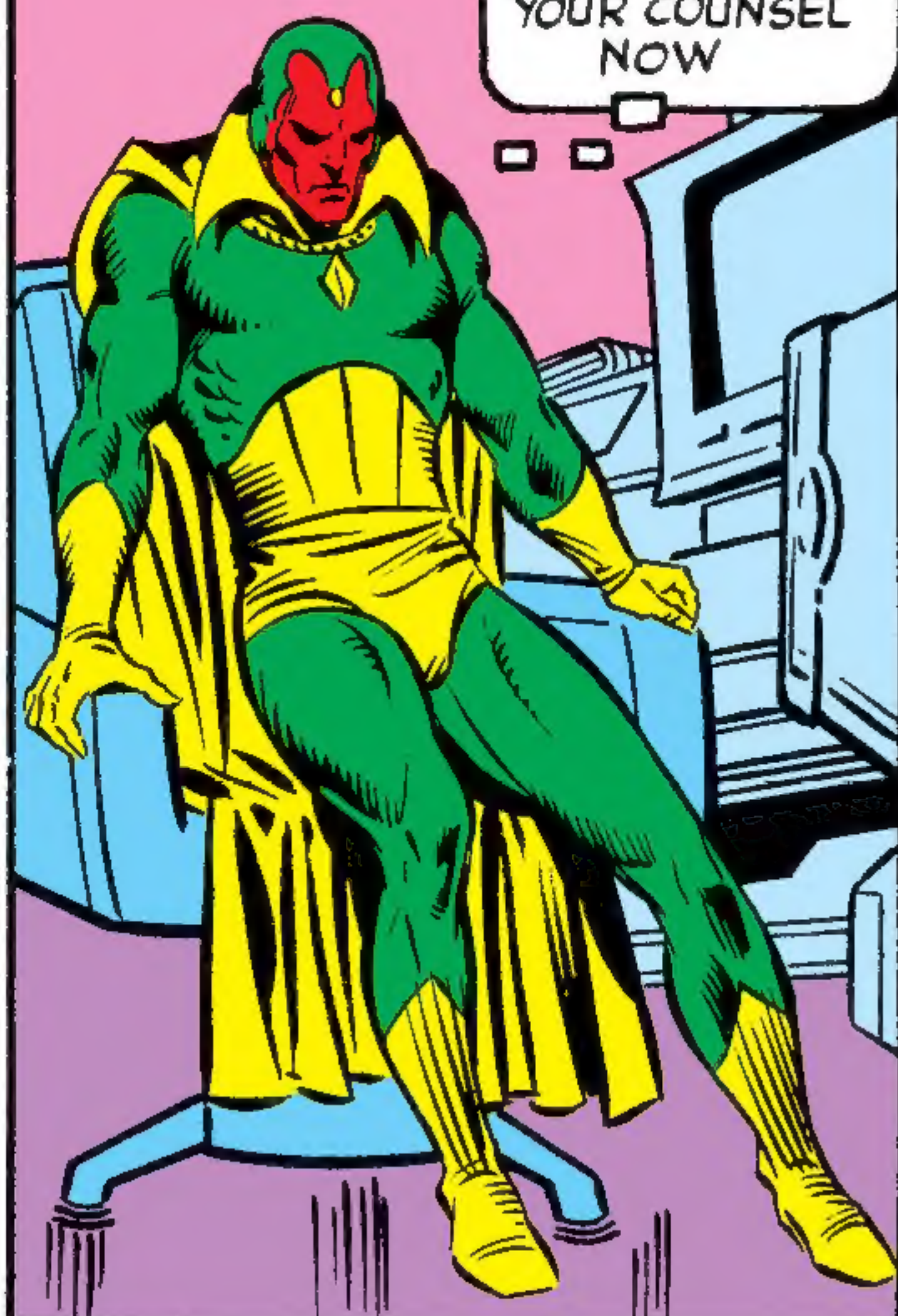
SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING THAT I SHOULD HANDLE!

I AGREE. YOU GO FIGHT THE FIRE, MY LOVE. I'LL WATCH OVER THINGS HERE!

BUT, NO SOONER HAS HIS WIFE DEPARTED THAN THE VISION'S DEMEANOR BECOMES MARKEDLY MORE SOMBER...

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE ACTIVE AVENGERS HAS ALLOWED ME TO RISE TO A POSITION OF AUTHORITY, BUT IT ALL SEEMS FOR NAUGHT.

AH, ISAAC! I COULD USE YOUR COUNSEL NOW



IN RESPONSE, A HOLOGRAPHIC CONSTRUCT OF THE PLANET TITAN'S WORLD-COMPUTER INSTANTLY FLARES TO LIFE...

ACKNOWLEDGING!

ISAAC! THEN, WE TWO ARE STILL IN CONTACT?



WE ARE. OUR INITIAL LINK-UP* ESTABLISHED A HYPERSPATIAL TAP TO MY TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS. I AM OPEN AT YOUR DISCRETION.

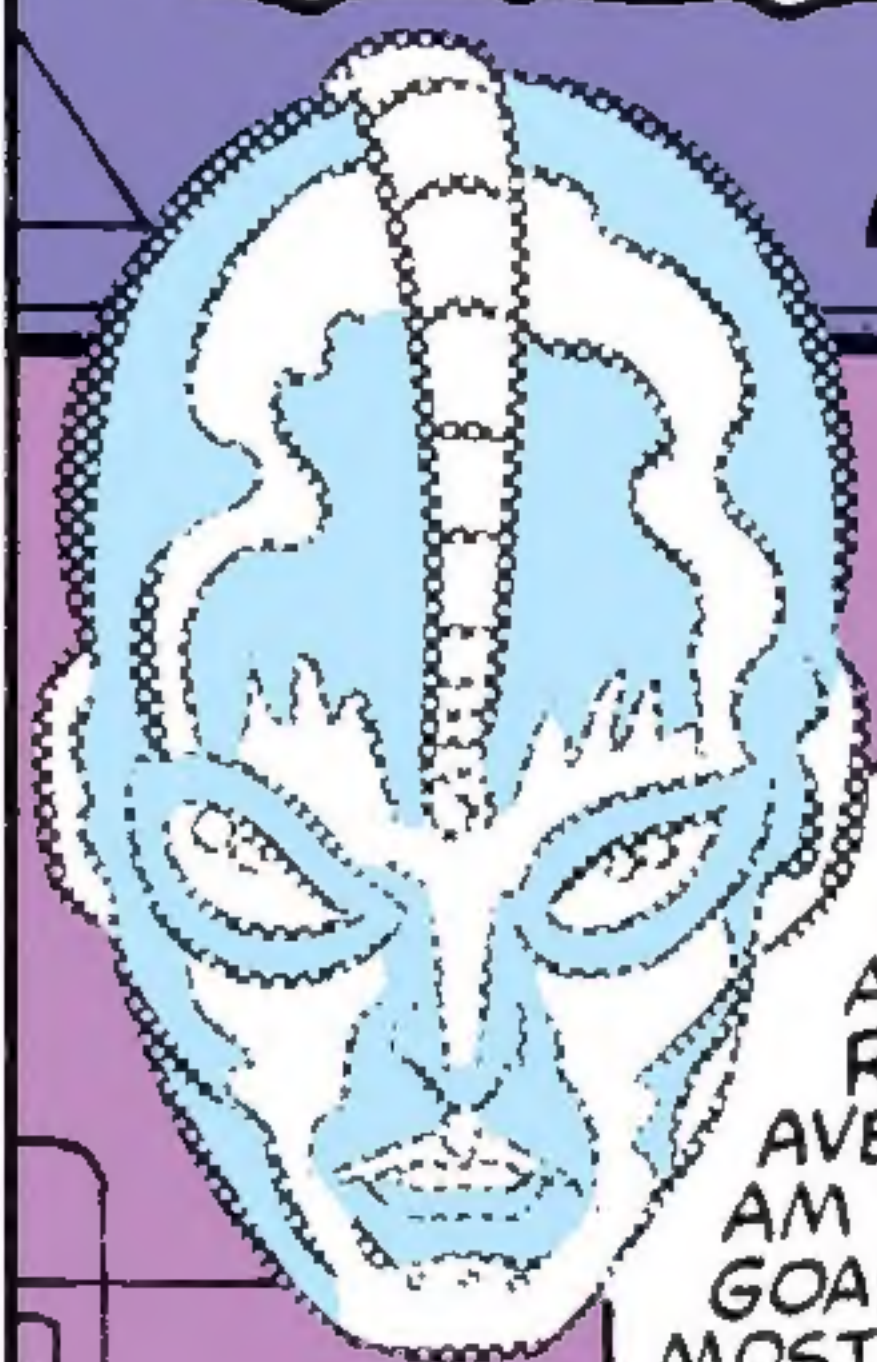
THAT EXPLAINS THE GREATER MEMORY CAPACITY I'VE FELT LATELY!

* ISSUE # 238.



YES. ALL MY DATA IS AVAILABLE TO YOU... AS YOURS IS TO ME.

YOU WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD THE AVENGERS, BUT YOU ARE FRUSTRATED BY THEIR ABSENCE.



INDEED. I MUST LEAD A TEAM OF RESPECTED AVENGERS, IF I AM TO MEET MY GOALS. BUT OUR MOST REVERED MEMBERS ARE MISSING. A NEW TEAM COULD BE ASSEMBLED--

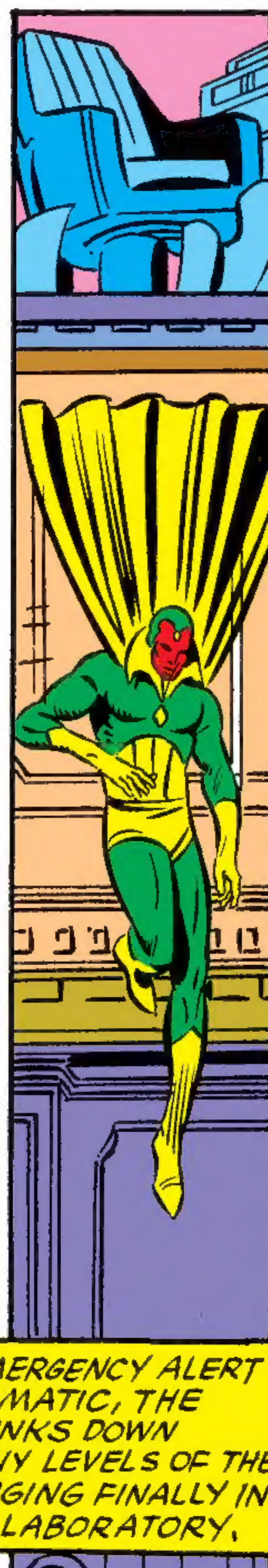
YOU REASON PEOPLE WILL NOT FULLY TRUST AN ARTIFICIAL MAN, A SYNTHEZOID SUCH AS YOURSELF. BUT YOU NEED NOT CONVINCE ALL OF THEM... ONLY A FEW SELECT INDIVIDUALS!

OF COURSE! AND IN MY EXPANDED CAPACITY, I HAVE THE MEANS TO DO JUST THAT!

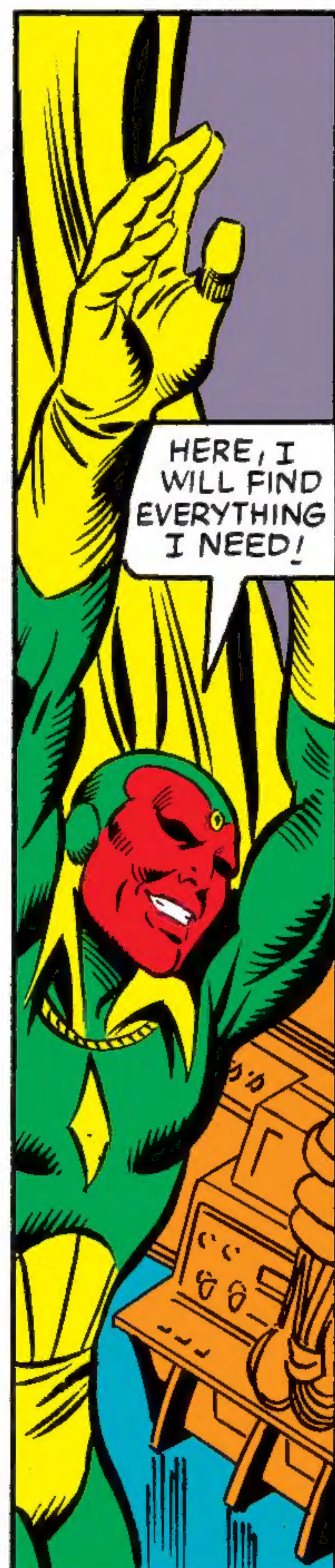


SWITCHING THE EMERGENCY ALERT MONITORS TO AUTOMATIC, THE VISION SWIFTLY SINKS DOWN THROUGH THE MANY LEVELS OF THE BUILDING ... EMERGING FINALLY IN THE ELECTRONICS LABORATORY,

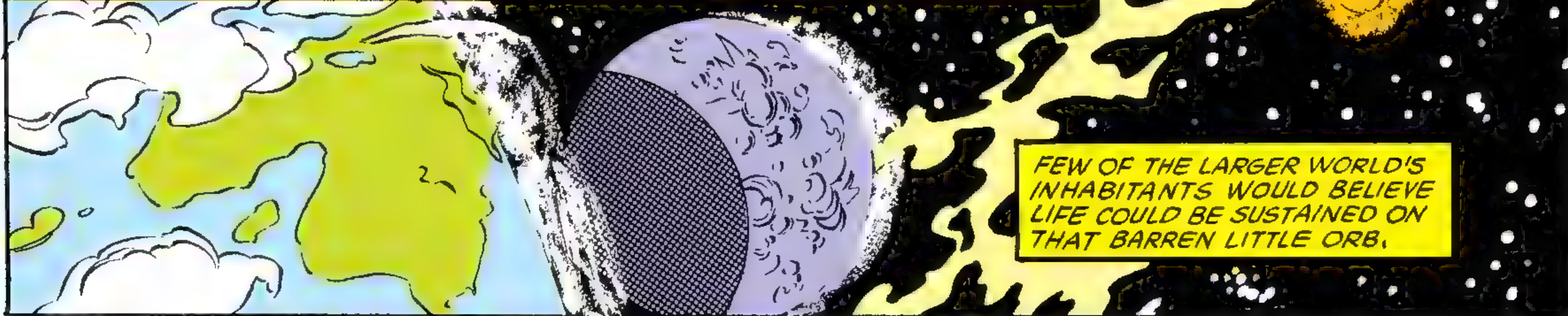
-- BUT WITHOUT THOR OR CAPTAIN AMERICA BEHIND ME, THE PUBLIC WILL NEVER ACCEPT WHAT I HAVE IN MIND.



HERE, I WILL FIND EVERYTHING I NEED!

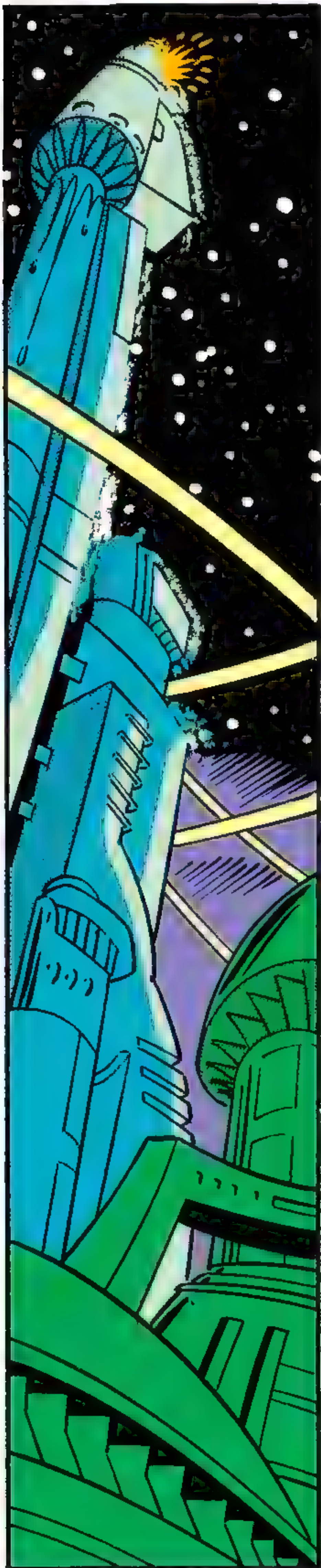


MEANWHILE, NEARLY A QUARTER OF A MILLION MILES AWAY, EARTH'S MOON SWINGS ABOUT OUR PLANET IN ITS CEASELESS ORBIT.



FEW OF THE LARGER WORLD'S INHABITANTS WOULD BELIEVE LIFE COULD BE SUSTAINED ON THAT BARREN LITTLE ORB.

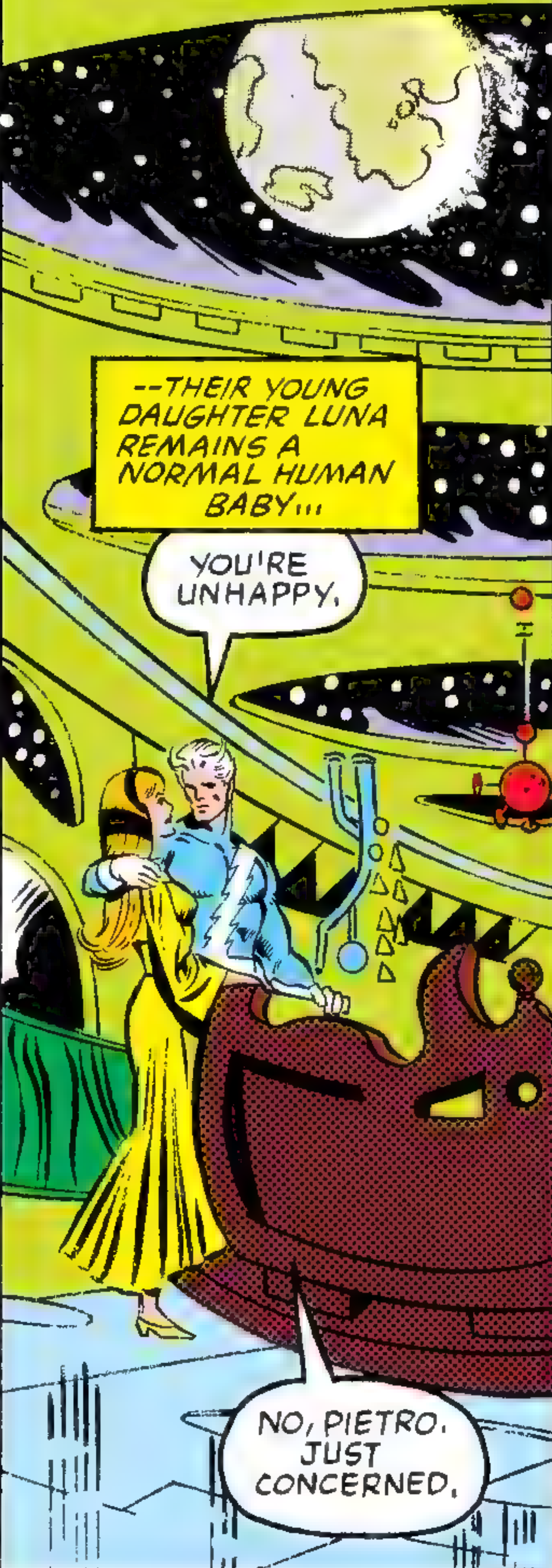
BUT HERE, IN THE LITTLE-KNOWN, OXYGEN-RICH **BLUE AREA** OF THE MOON, LIFE IS NOT JUST SUSTAINED, IT THRIVES...



HERE IS THE TRANSPLANTED CITY OF ATTILAN, HOME OF THE MYSTERIOUS OFFSHOOT OF HUMANITY KNOWN AS THE INHUMANS!

BUT NOT ALL OF ATTILAN'S CITIZENS ARE INHUMANS. HIGH IN ONE TOWER OF THE PALACE ROYALE DWELLS PIETRO MAXIMOFF, BROTHER TO THE SCARLET WITCH, AND THE FORMER AVENGER KNOWN AS **QUICKSILVER!**

AND ALTHOUGH HE IS A MUTANT BY BIRTH, AND HIS WIFE CRYSTAL IS OF INHUMAN BLOOD ROYALE --

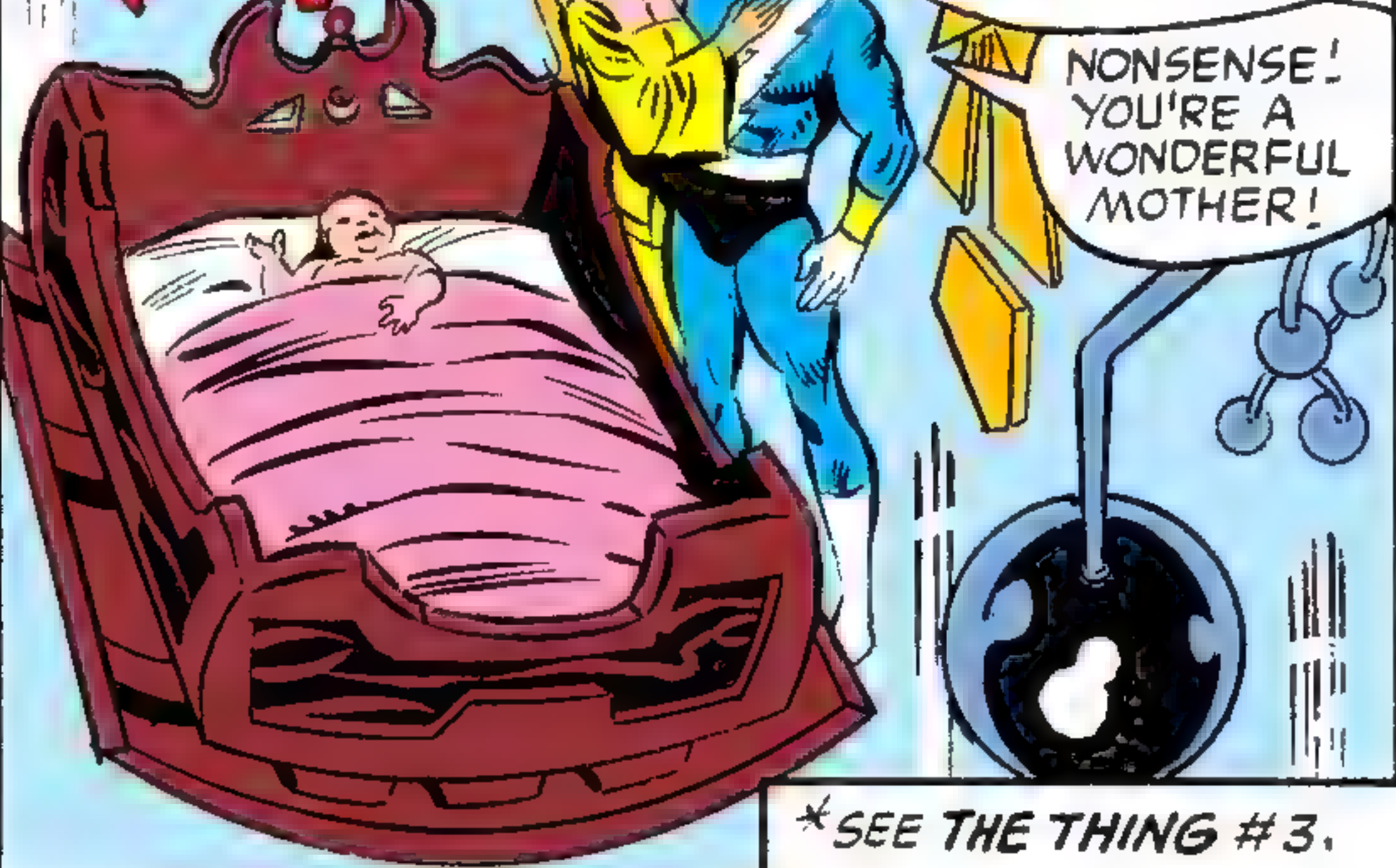


--THEIR YOUNG DAUGHTER LUNA REMAINS A NORMAL HUMAN BABY...

YOU'RE UNHAPPY.

NO, PIETRO. JUST CONCERNED.

I'M SO GLAD WE FINALLY AGREED NOT TO EXPOSE LUNA TO MY PEOPLE'S MUTAGENIC TERRIGEN MIST*, BUT I WORRY ABOUT BEING ABLE TO SAFELY RAISE A HUMAN CHILD IN ATTILAN.



NONSENSE! YOU'RE A WONDERFUL MOTHER!

*SEE THE THING #3.

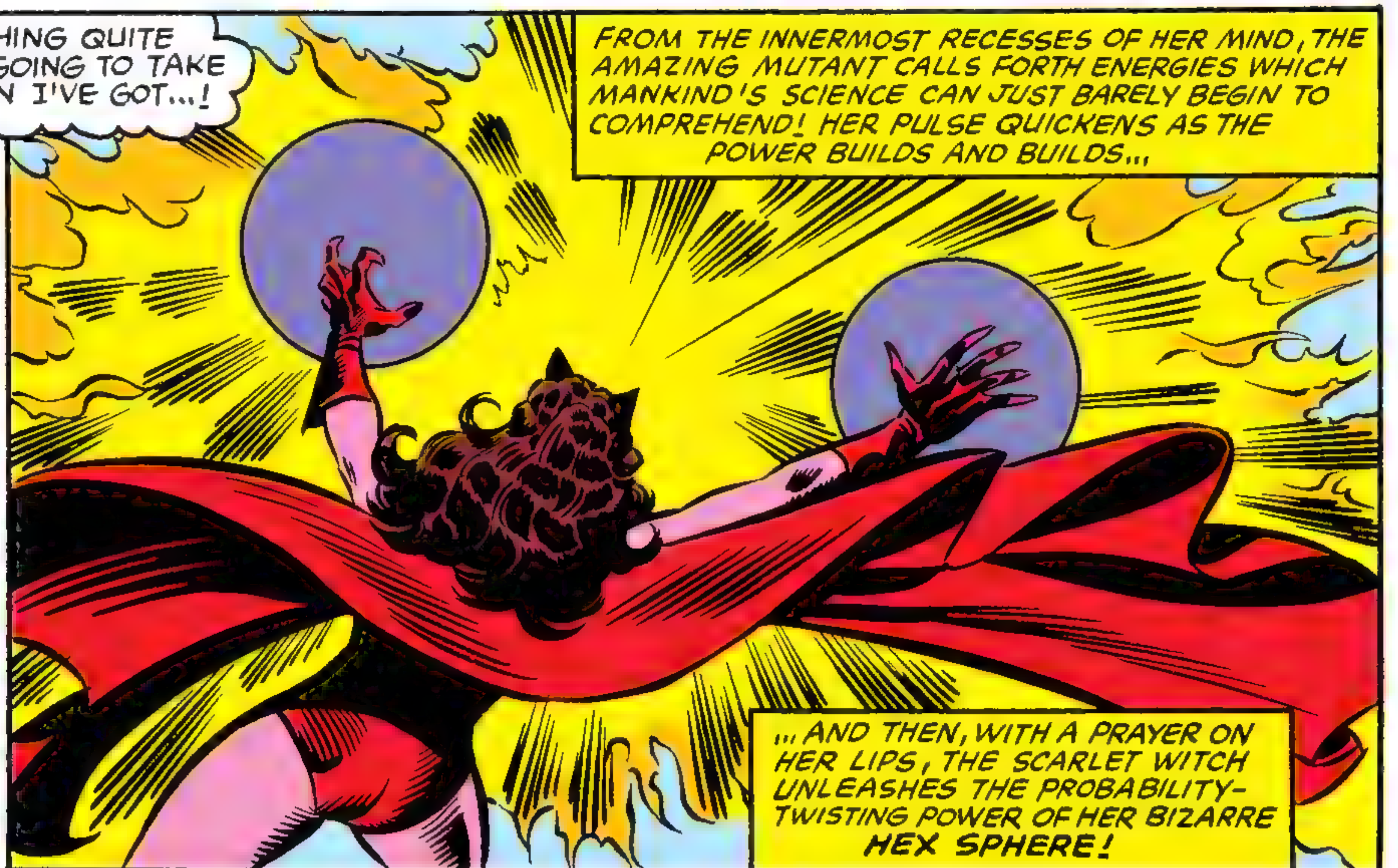
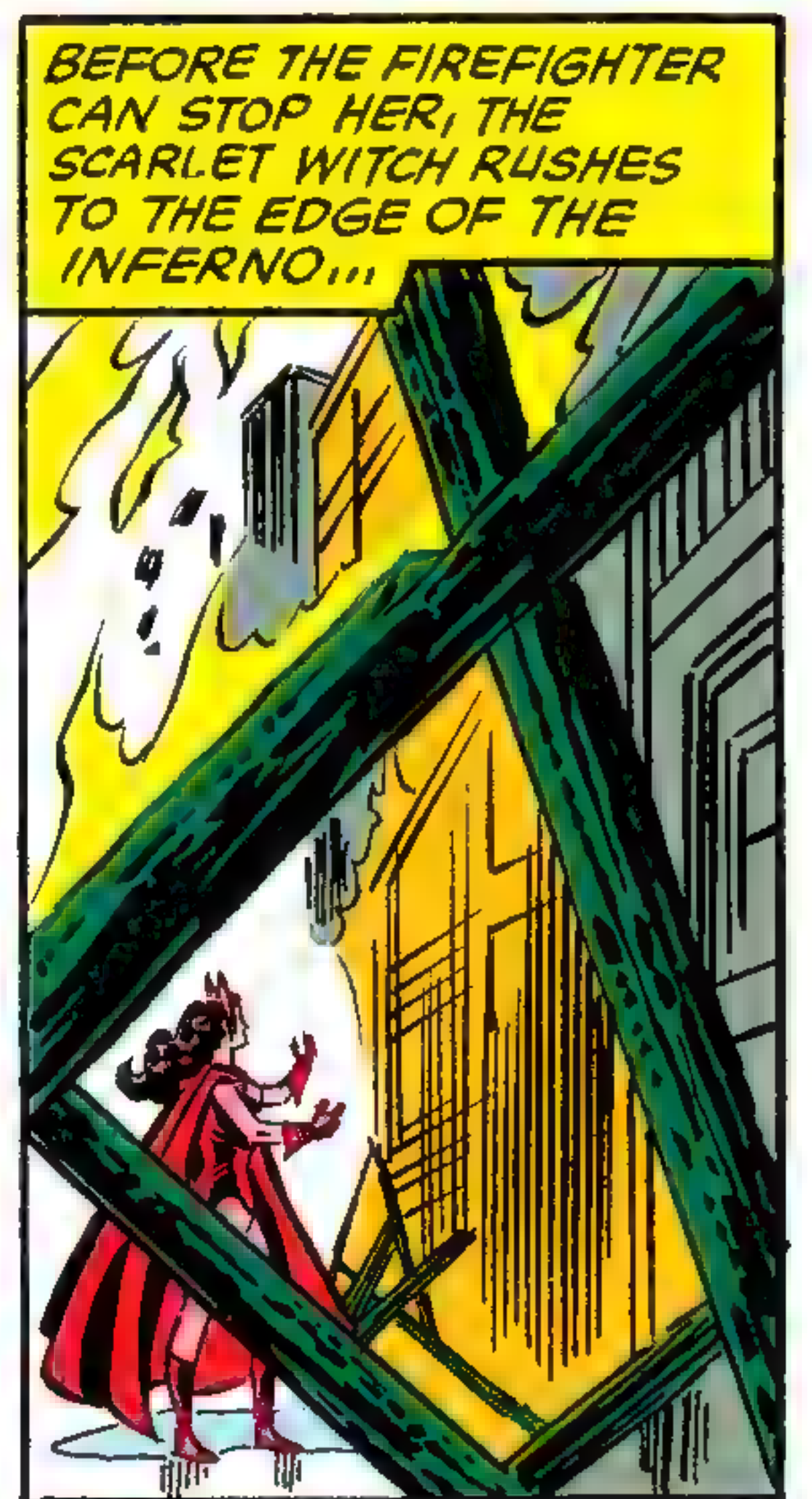


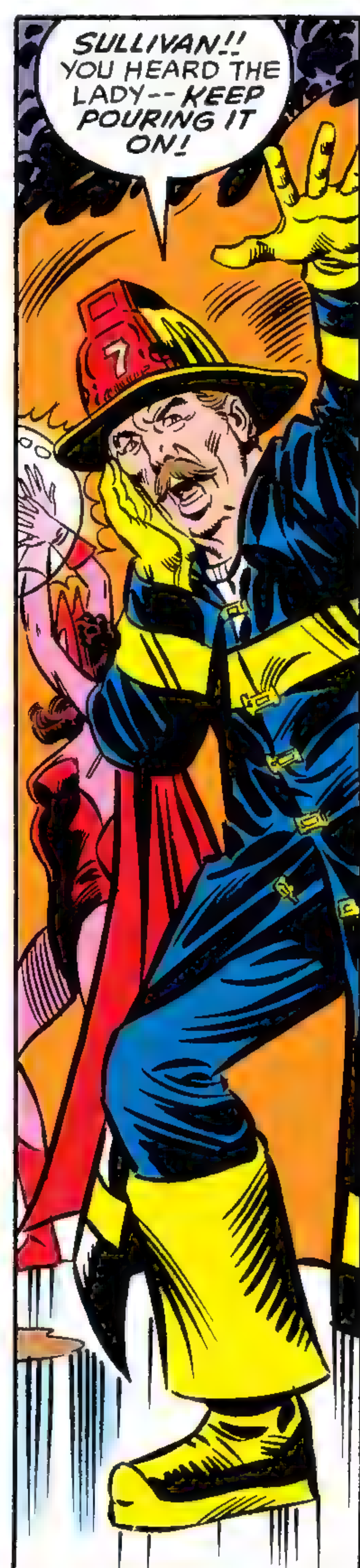
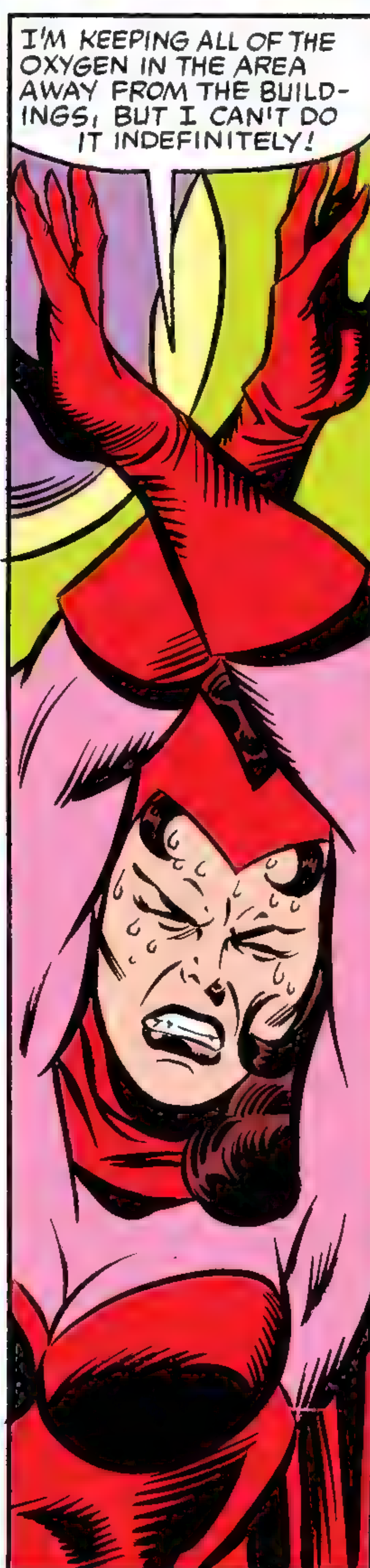
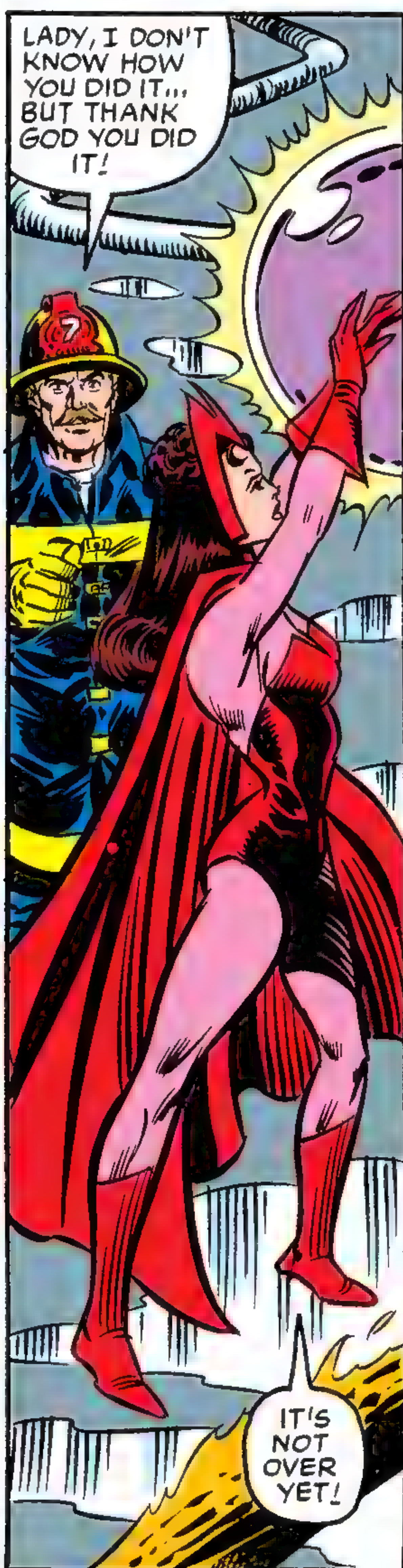
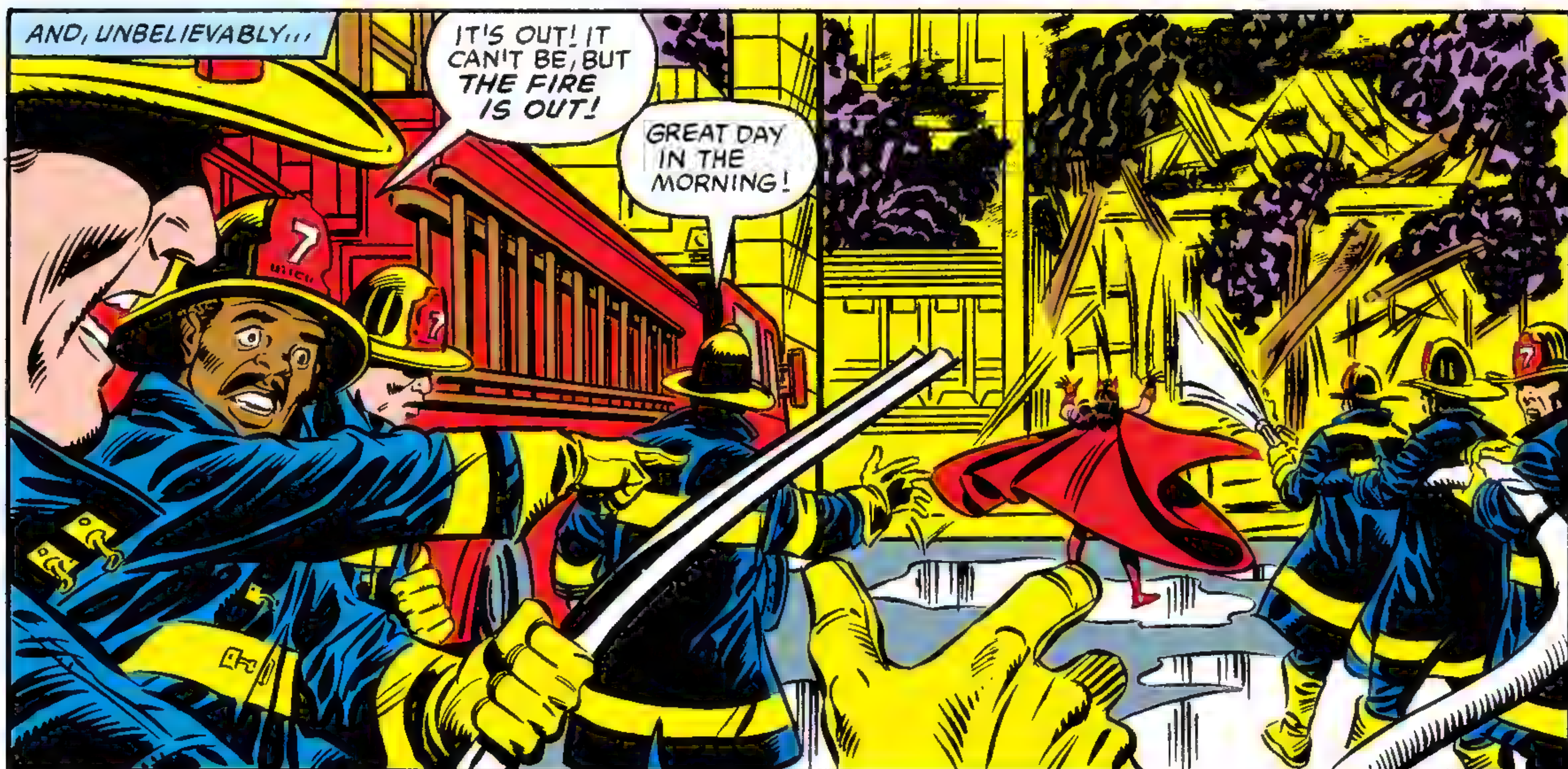
I'M GLAD YOU THINK SO, BUT NONE OF US HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH HUMAN BABIES! I SUPPOSE WHAT WE NEED IS A GOOD DOWN-TO-EARTH NANNY!

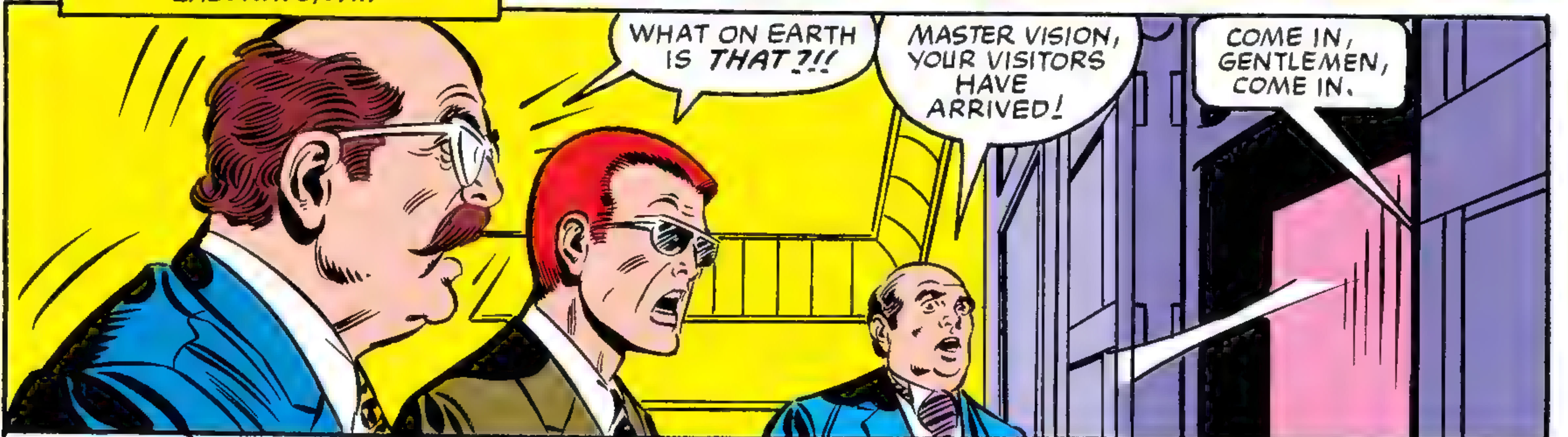
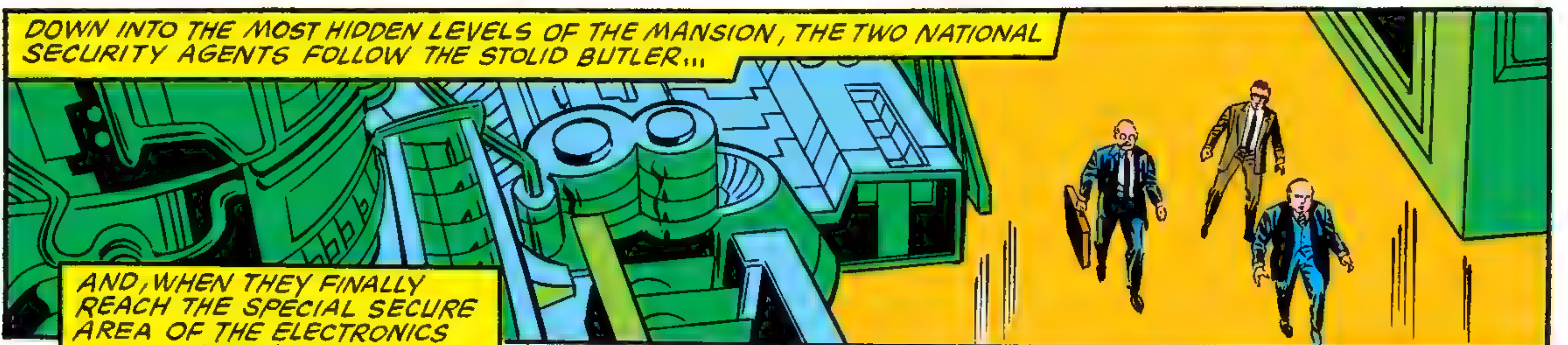
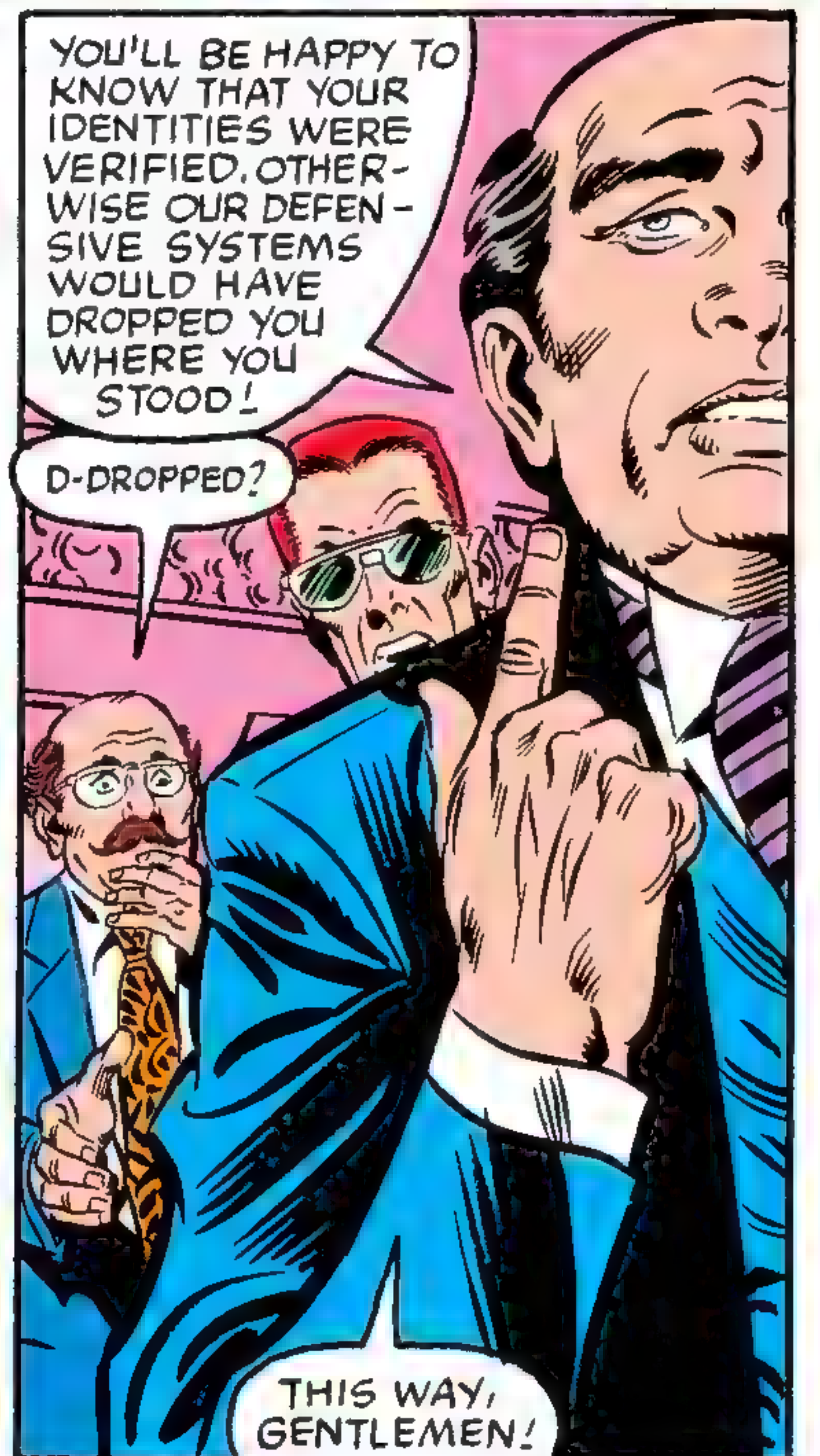
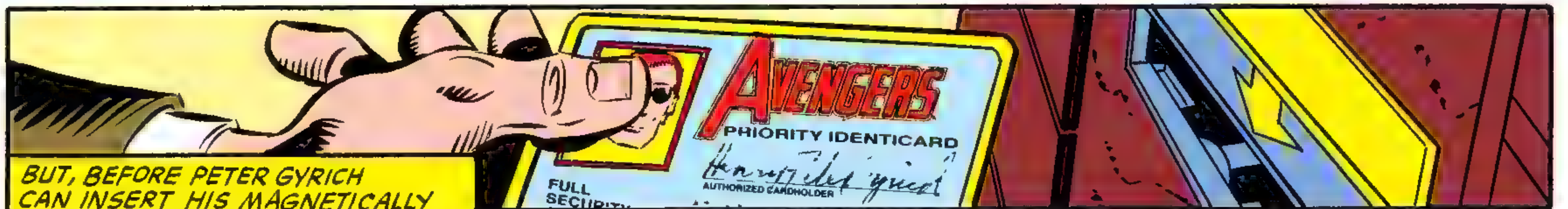
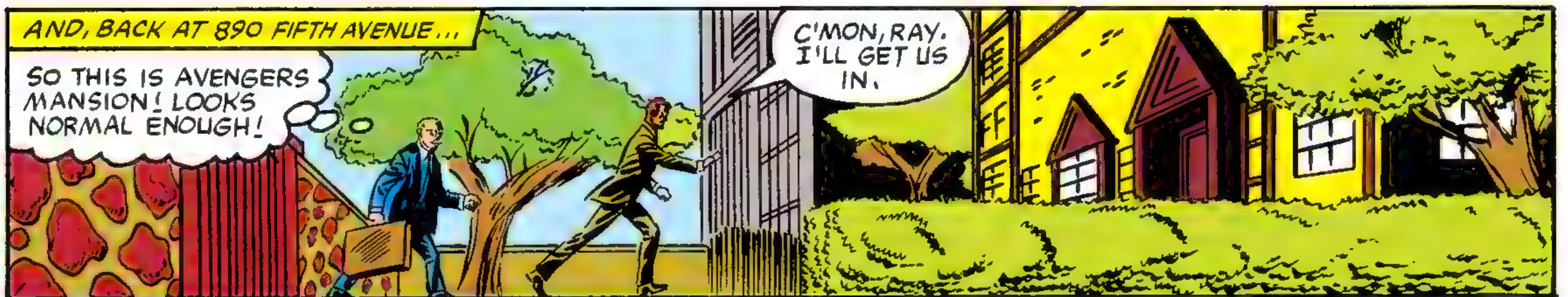
BUT WHERE COULD WE EVER FIND AN EARTH-BORN NANNY, WHO COULD DEAL WITH LIFE IN INHUMAN SOCIETY?

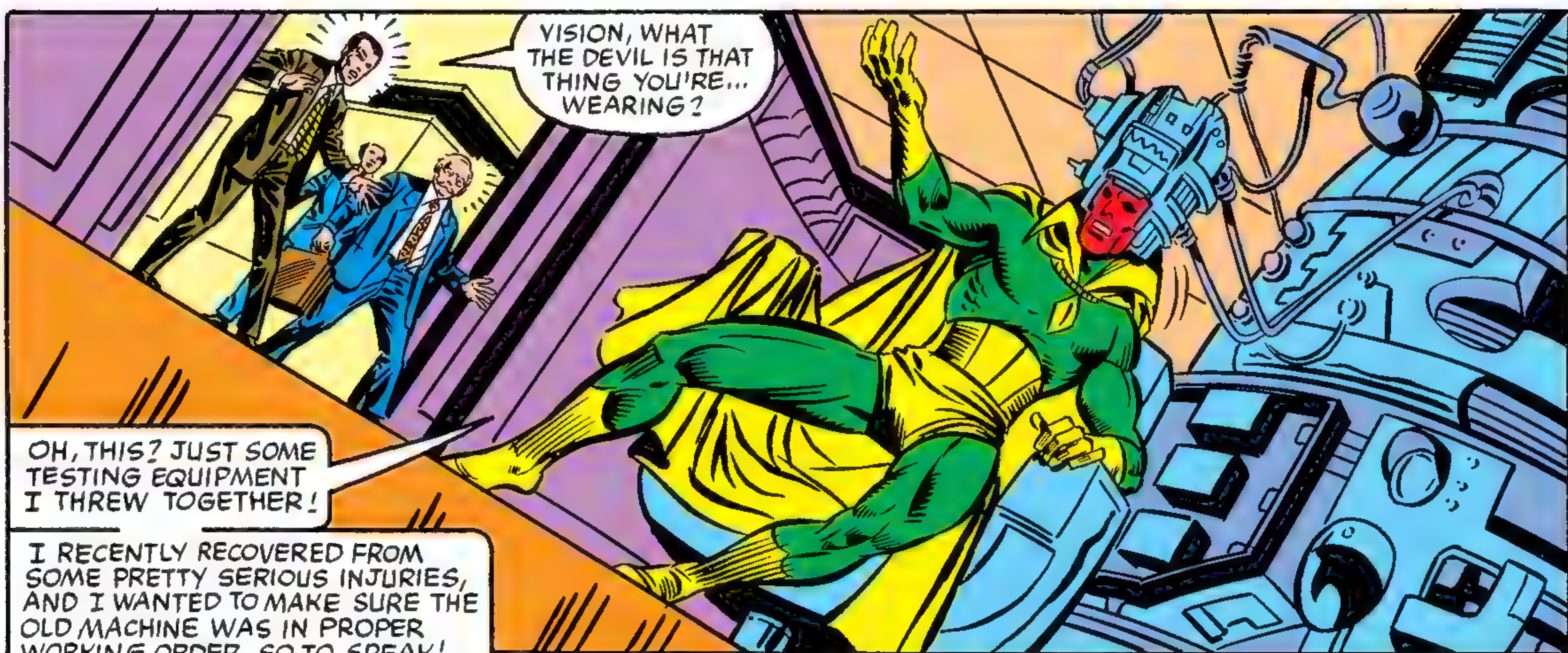


CRYSTAL, I MAY KNOW OF JUST SUCH A PERSON!





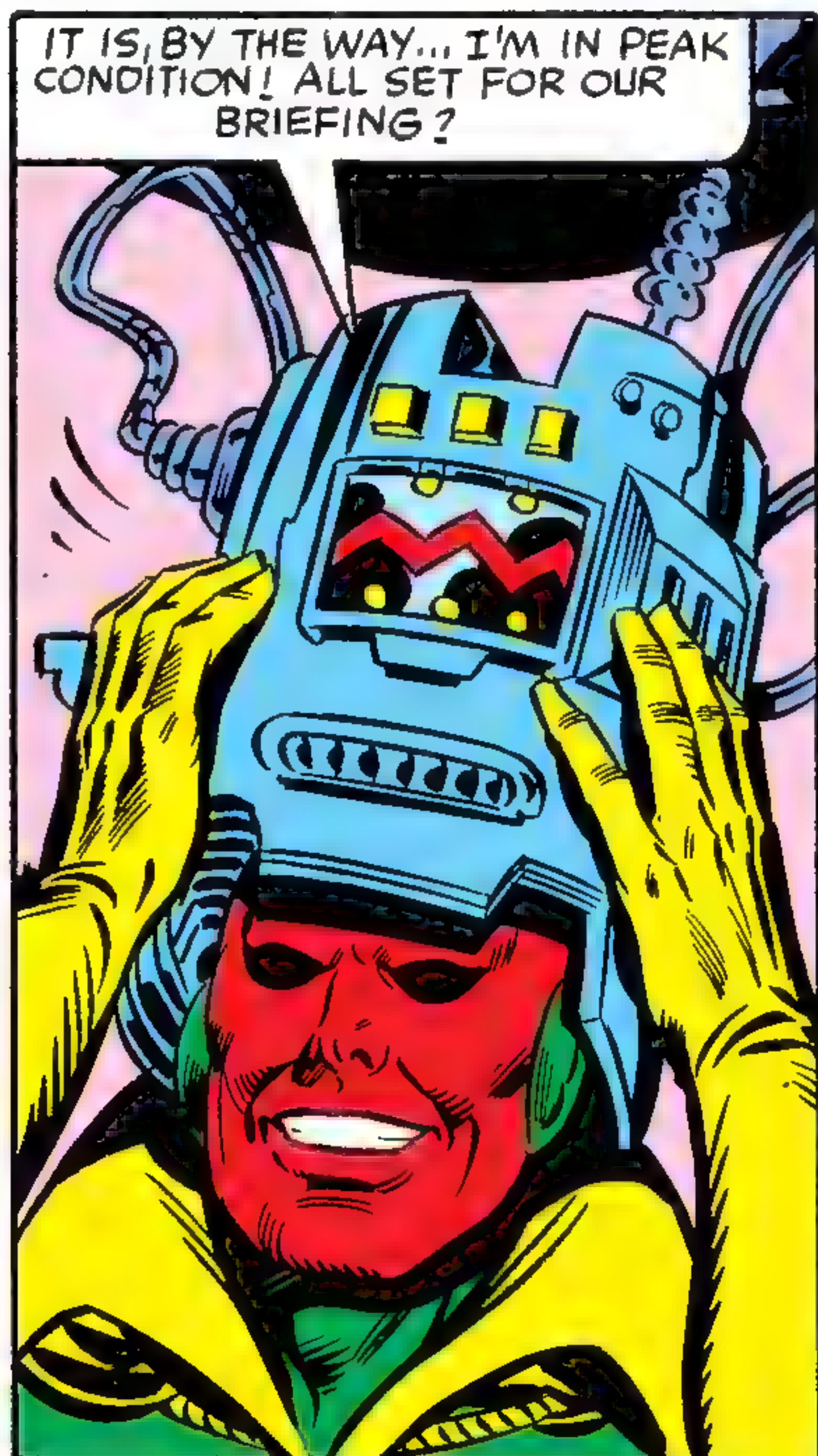




VISION, WHAT THE DEVIL IS THAT THING YOU'RE... WEARING?

OH, THIS? JUST SOME TESTING EQUIPMENT I THREW TOGETHER!

I RECENTLY RECOVERED FROM SOME PRETTY SERIOUS INJURIES, AND I WANTED TO MAKE SURE THE OLD MACHINE WAS IN PROPER WORKING ORDER, SO TO SPEAK!



IT IS, BY THE WAY... I'M IN PEAK CONDITION! ALL SET FOR OUR BRIEFING?



THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE! WE HAVE A LOT TO DISCUSS...

...NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS THAT LITTLE MEDIA OPPORTUNITY YOU TOOK TODAY! ARE YOU TRYING TO START A PANIC?! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THE REACTION WILL BE IN THE HINTERLANDS?



ADMITTEDLY, I MAY NOT BE THE AVENGERS' BEST SPOKESMAN, BUT, GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I WAS ALL WE HAD!

I DO APPRECIATE AND UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN, THOUGH, AND I'M GLAD YOU'RE BOTH HERE. AS YOU SAID, WE'VE GOT A LOT TO DISCUSS!



SHORTLY, SOME TWENTY BLOCKS AWAY...

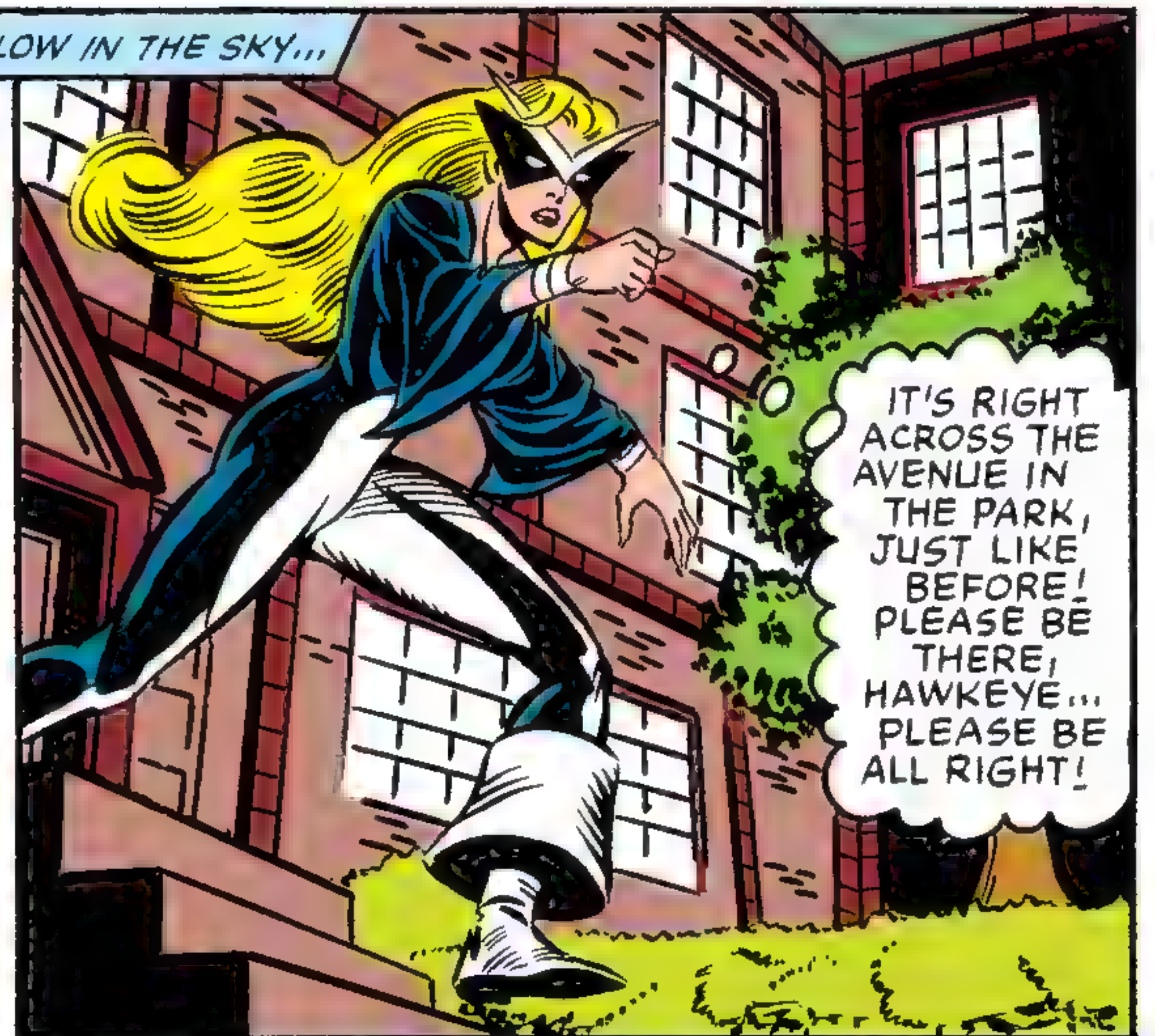
... AND THE FIREMEN WHO'D BEEN TRAPPED INSIDE GOT OUT WITH JUST MINOR BURNS. THEY'LL BE BACK ON THE JOB SOON-- THANKS TO YOU.

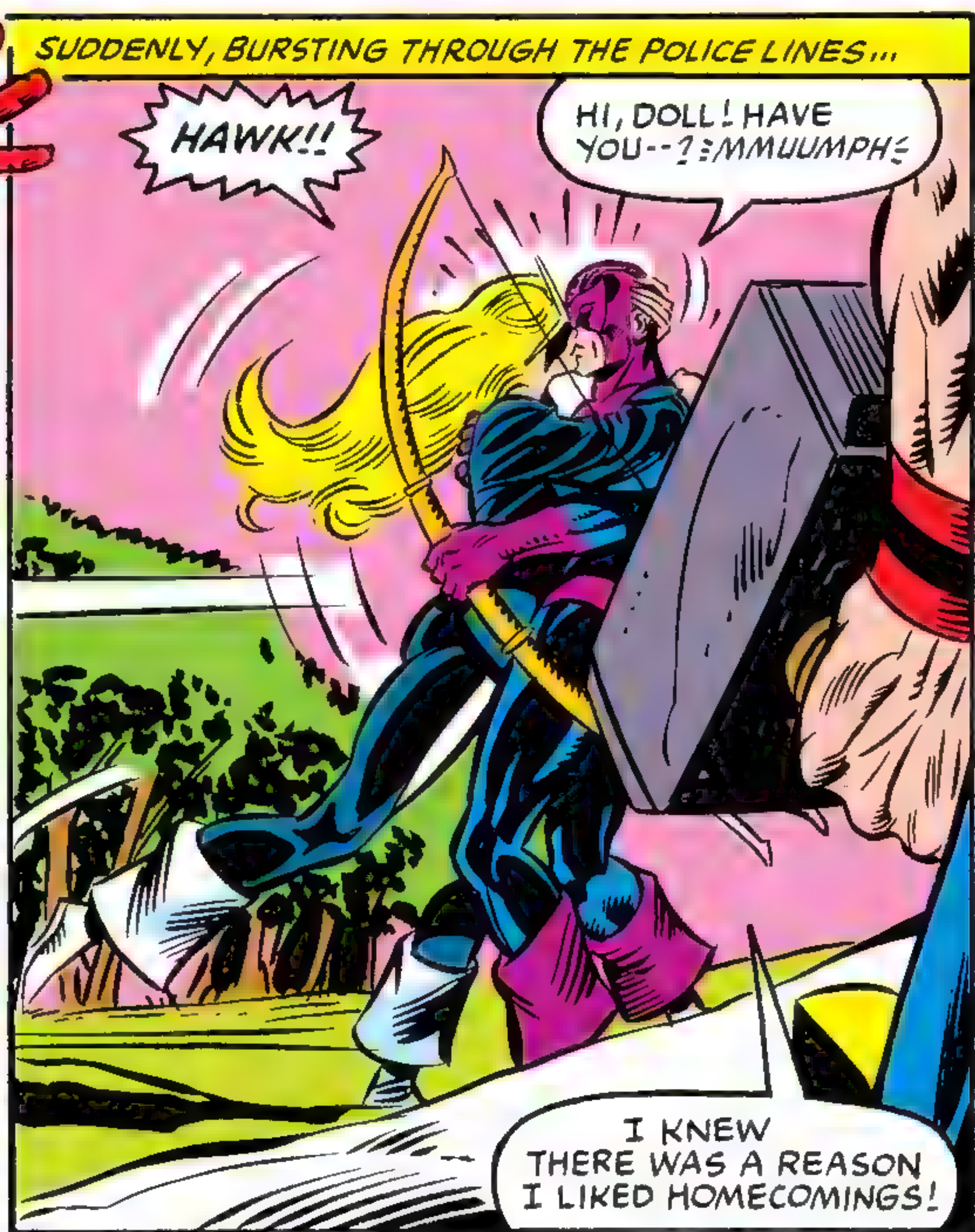
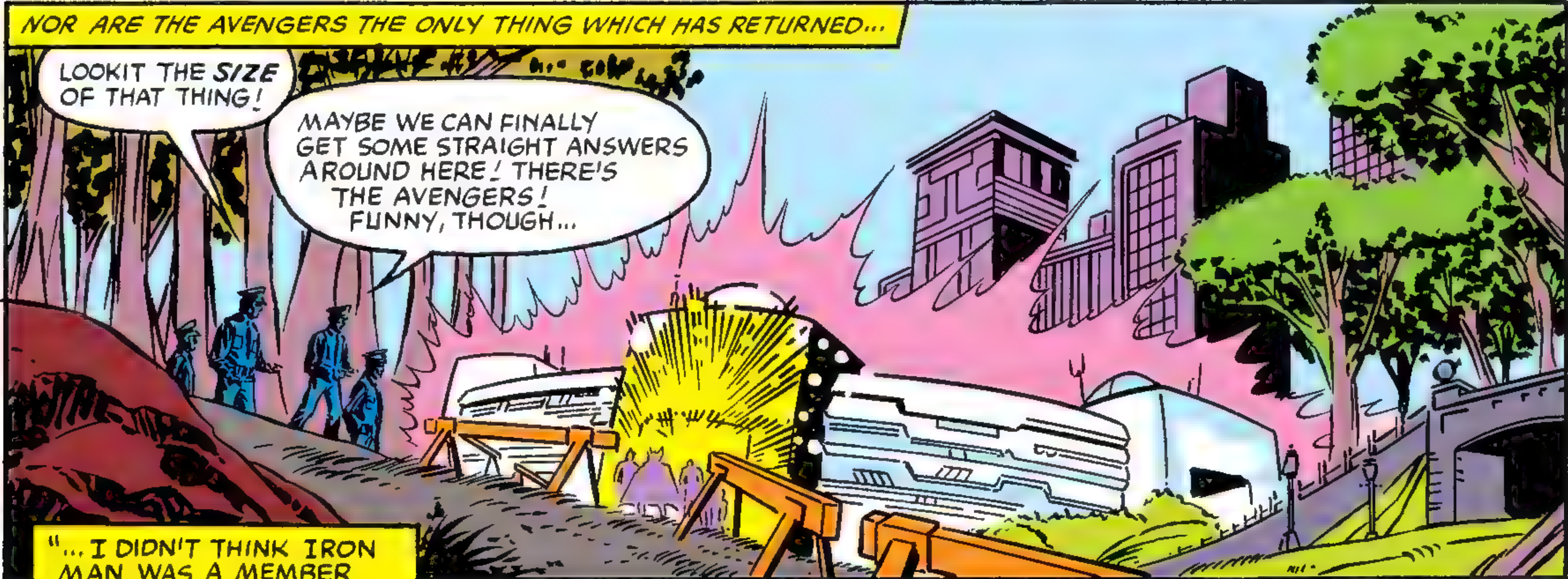
I TELL YA, MS. MAXIMOFF, I'VE BEEN FIGHTING FIRE FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS, AND I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE WHAT YOU JUST DID!

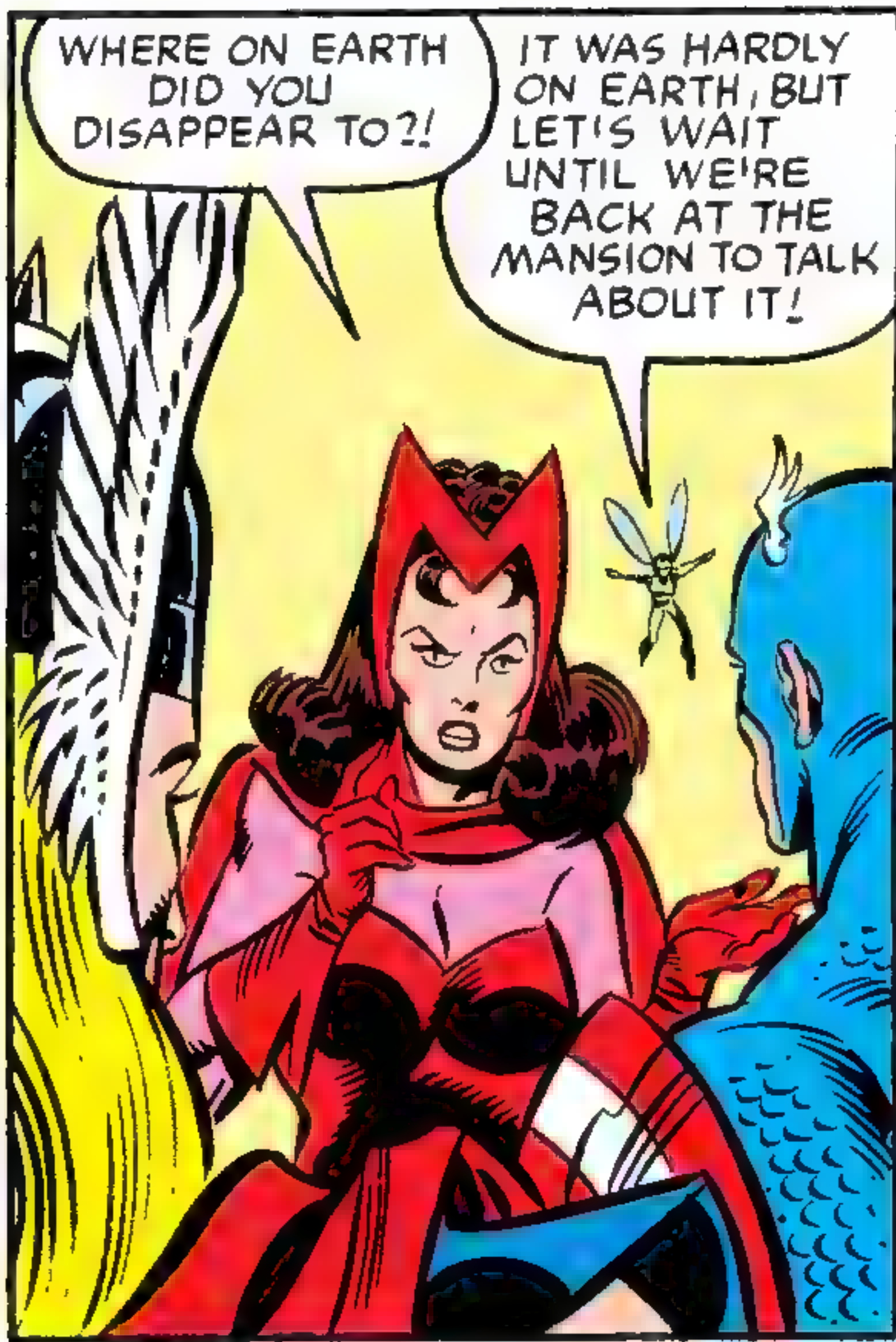
THANK YOU, BUT-- TO BE HONEST--THIS WASN'T SOMETHING I'D WANT TO DO EVERY DAY!



BUT WANDA IS NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO SPOTS THE BLAZING GLOW IN THE SKY...







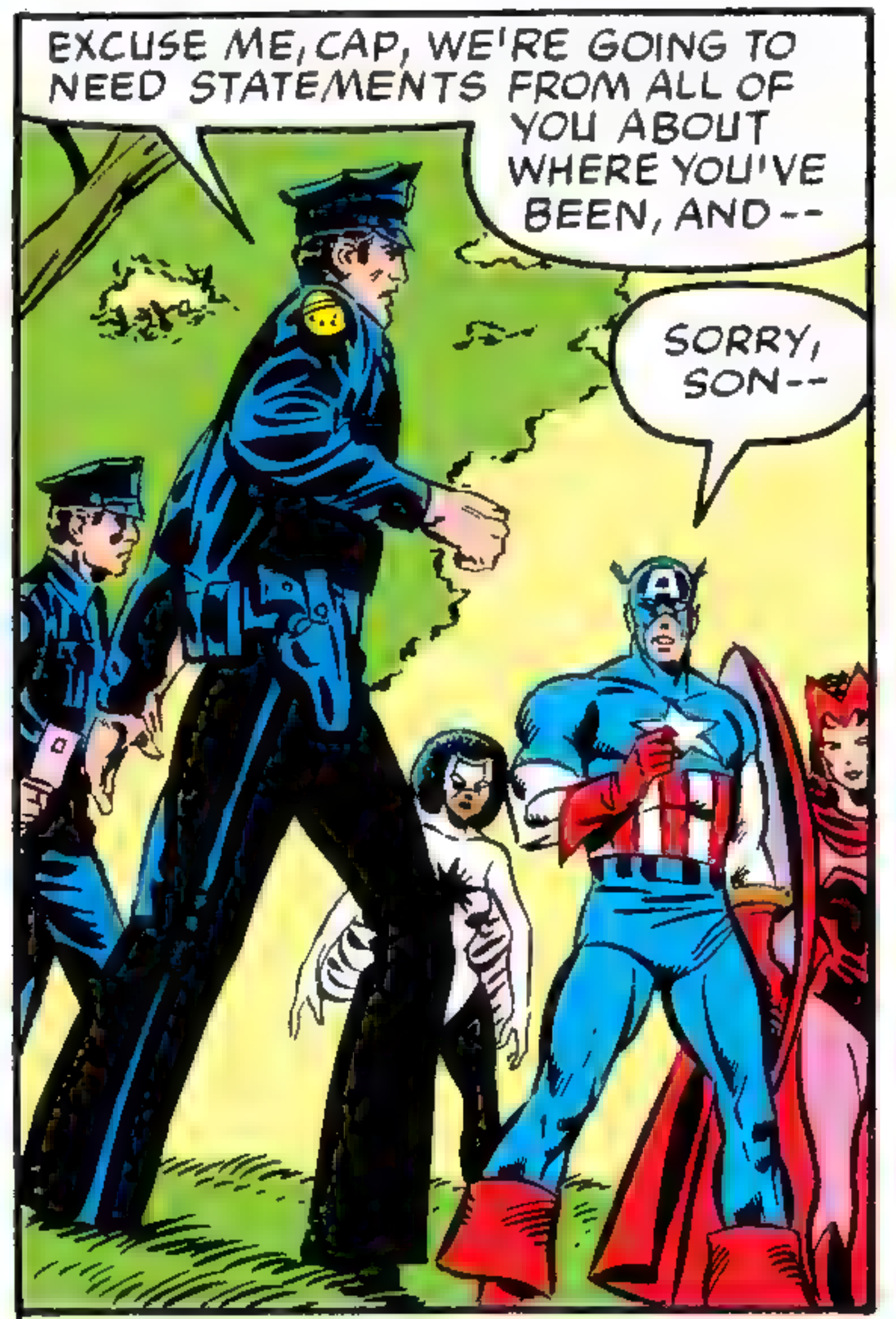
WHERE ON EARTH DID YOU DISAPPEAR TO?!

IT WAS HARDLY ON EARTH, BUT LET'S WAIT UNTIL WE'RE BACK AT THE MANSION TO TALK ABOUT IT!



YES, WASP. FOR NOW IT'S BEST THAT THE PUBLIC NOT KNOW ABOUT OUR SECRET WAR.*

*BUT YOU CAN FIND OUT ALL ABOUT IT IN THE **SECRET WARS** LIMITED SERIES, ON SALE SOON!



EXCUSE ME, CAP, WE'RE GOING TO NEED STATEMENTS FROM ALL OF YOU ABOUT WHERE YOU'VE BEEN, AND--

SORRY, SON--



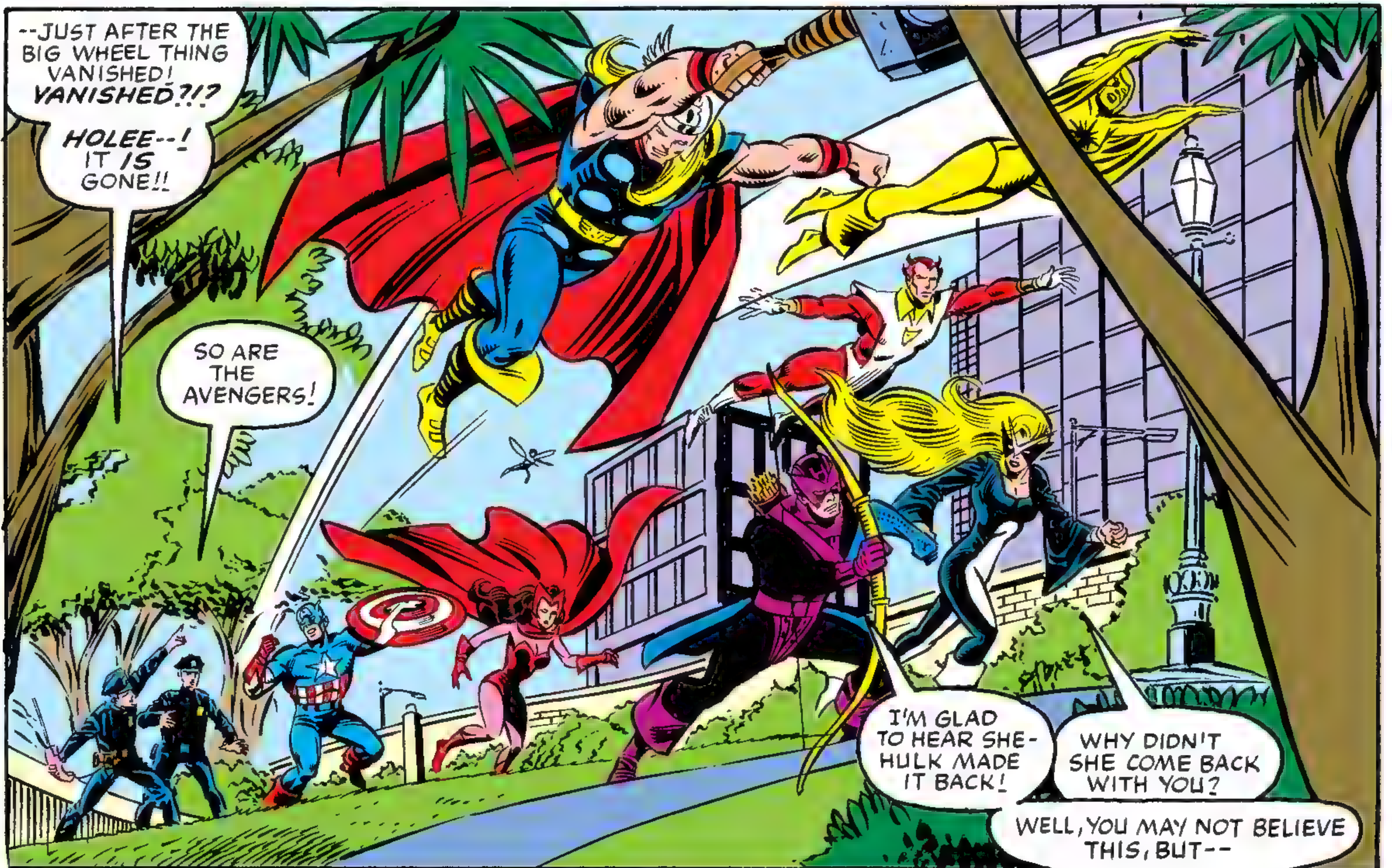
BUT I'M AFRAID THAT ANY STATEMENTS WE MAKE MUST BE SUBMITTED AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL FIRST. YOU UNDERSTAND.

UH, NOT REALLY, BUT I'M NOT GONNA ARGUE WITH YOU, SIR!



WOW, DID THE PRESIDENT REALLY SIGN THAT?

THE OTHER CHECKPOINTS REPORT SUPER-GUYS POPPIN' UP TOO! A PATROL ACROSS THE PARK REPORTED A GREEN LADY APPEARIN' WITH MR. FANTASTIC AN' THE HUMAN TORCH--



--JUST AFTER THE BIG WHEEL THING VANISHED! VANISHED?!?

HOLEE--! IT IS GONE!!

SO ARE THE AVENGERS!

I'M GLAD TO HEAR SHE-HULK MADE IT BACK!

WHY DIDN'T SHE COME BACK WITH YOU?

WELL, YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE THIS, BUT--

SOMETIME LATER, AS A LESS-THAN-HAPPY SHE-HULK RETURNS TO AVENGERS MANSION...

YOU'D THINK THAT WEARING A FANTASTIC FOUR UNIFORM WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO GET A CAB!

I HOPE THEY WENT AHEAD AND STARTED THE DEBRIEFING MEETING WITHOUT ME!

I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE DELAYED THIS LONG, BUT THINGS HAPPEN PRETTY FAST WHEN YOU WORK WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

I HOPE SUE RICHARDS IS ALL RIGHT. IT REALLY SPOOKED ME THE WAY SHE COLLAPSED, AFTER SHE FOUND US IN THE PARK! * YOU HAVE TO WORRY WHEN THAT HAPPENS TO A WOMAN IN HER CONDITION!

LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING! IF CAPTAIN MARVEL'S FACE WAS ANY LONGER, SHE'D TRIP ON IT!

*F.F. #256.

HEY, C.M.! WHAT'S UP?

SHE-HULK! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU MADE IT BACK ALL SAFE AND SOUND! YOU KNOW, THAT UNIFORM REALLY LOOKS GOOD ON YOU!

CAN THE HAPPY-TALK, MARVEL! SOMETHING'S GOTTEN UNDER YOUR SKIN... WHAT IS IT?

IT'S THAT OBVIOUS?

UH-HUH. WHAT'S THE MATTER? BAD NEWS ON THE PHONE?

SORT OF. I CALLED MY PARENTS TO LET THEM KNOW I WAS OKAY... IN CASE THEY WONDERED WHERE I WAS LATELY... AND THERE WAS NO ANSWER!

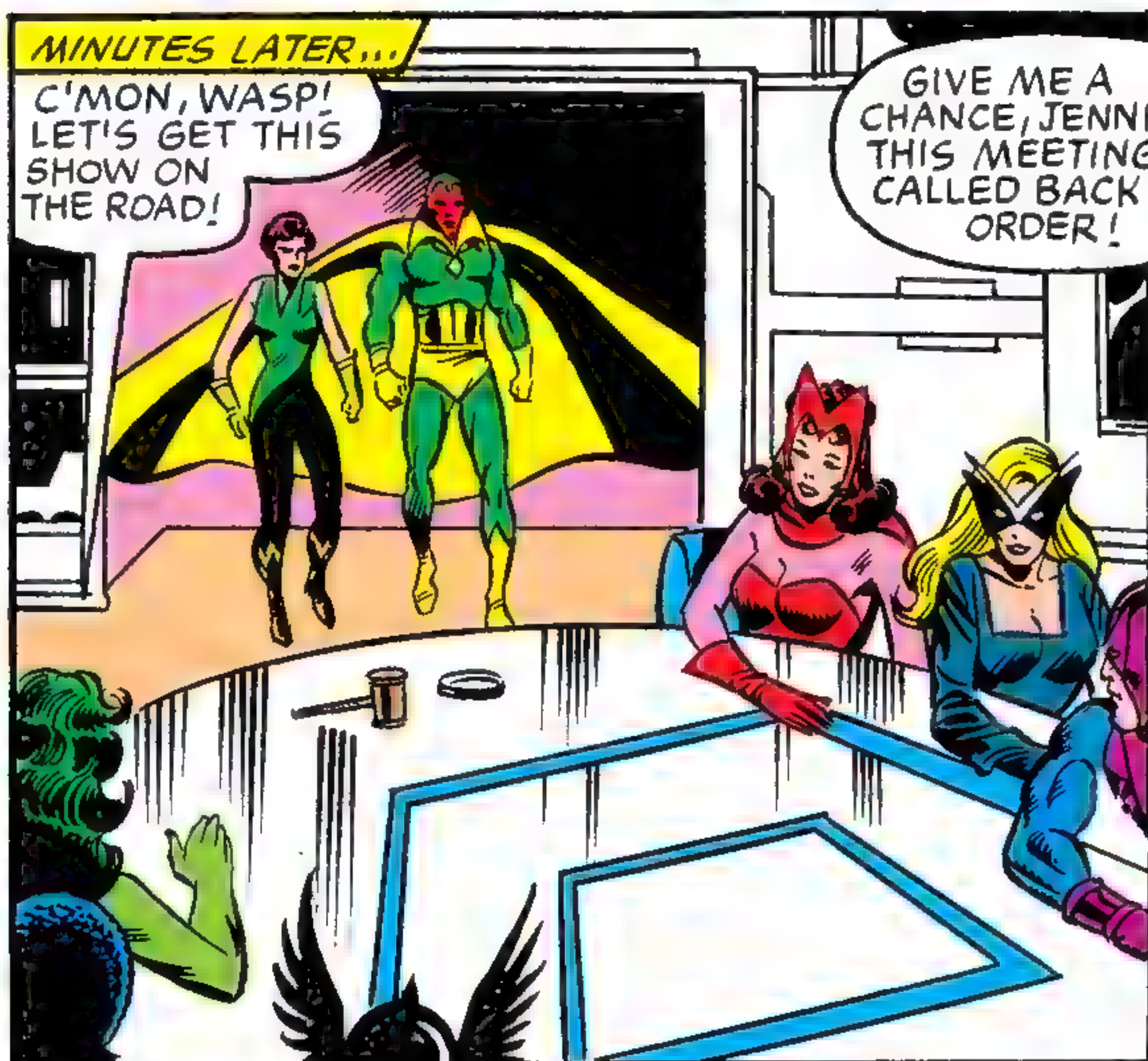
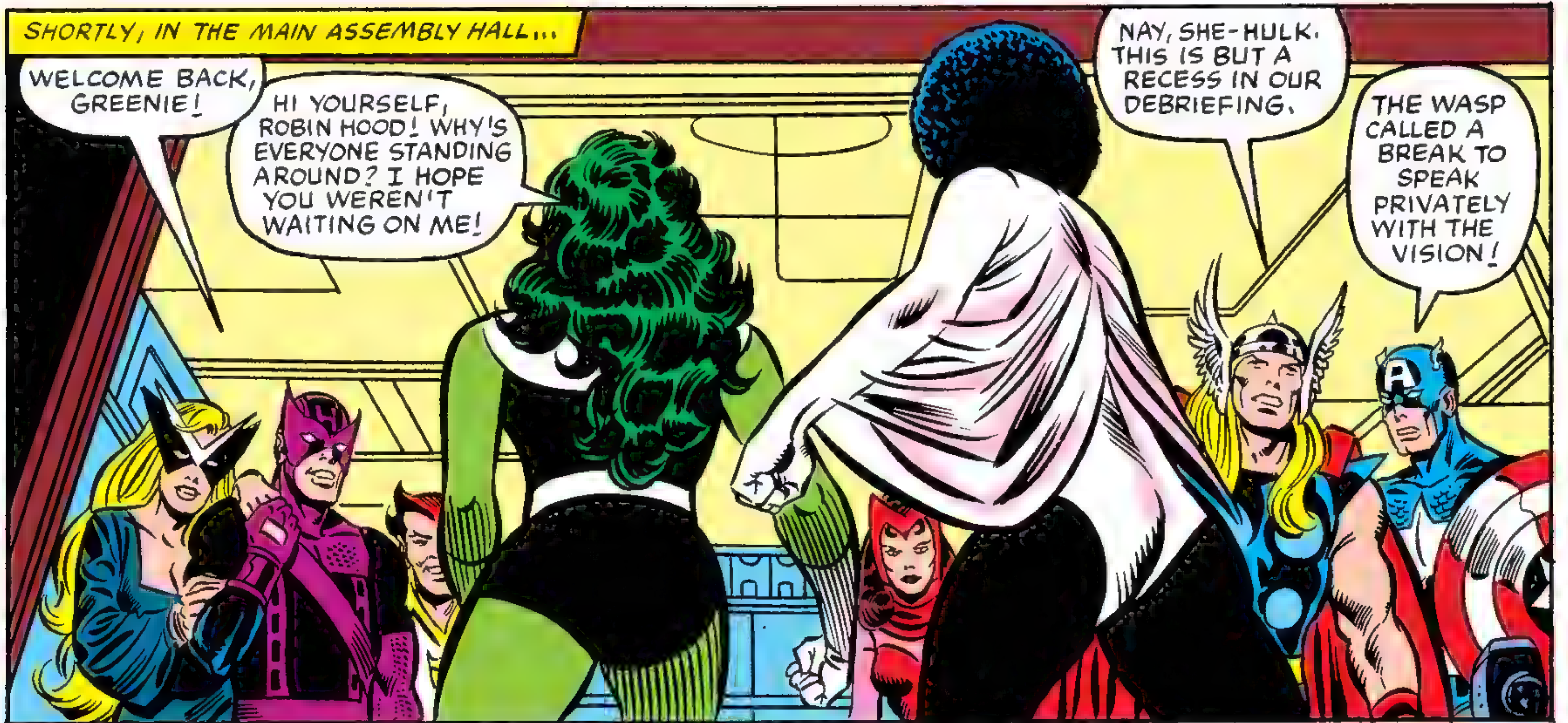
I TAKE IT THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR LIFE AS CAPTAIN MARVEL YET?

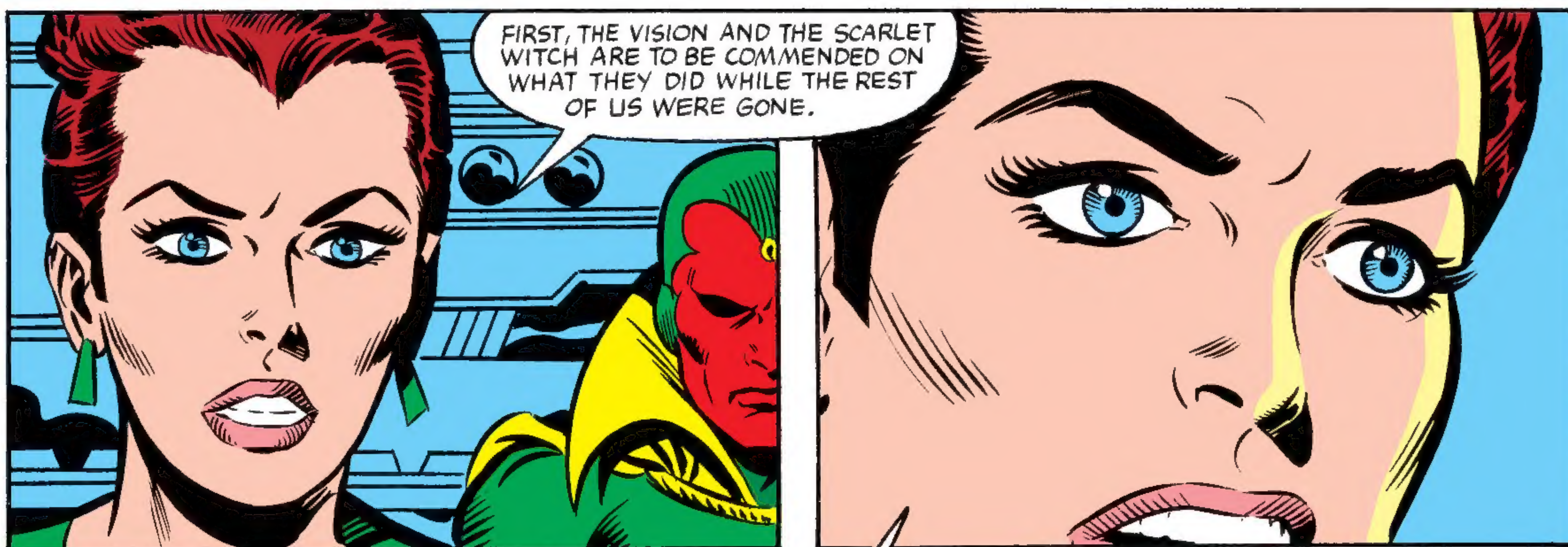
NOT YET, AND AFTER ALL WE WENT THROUGH--

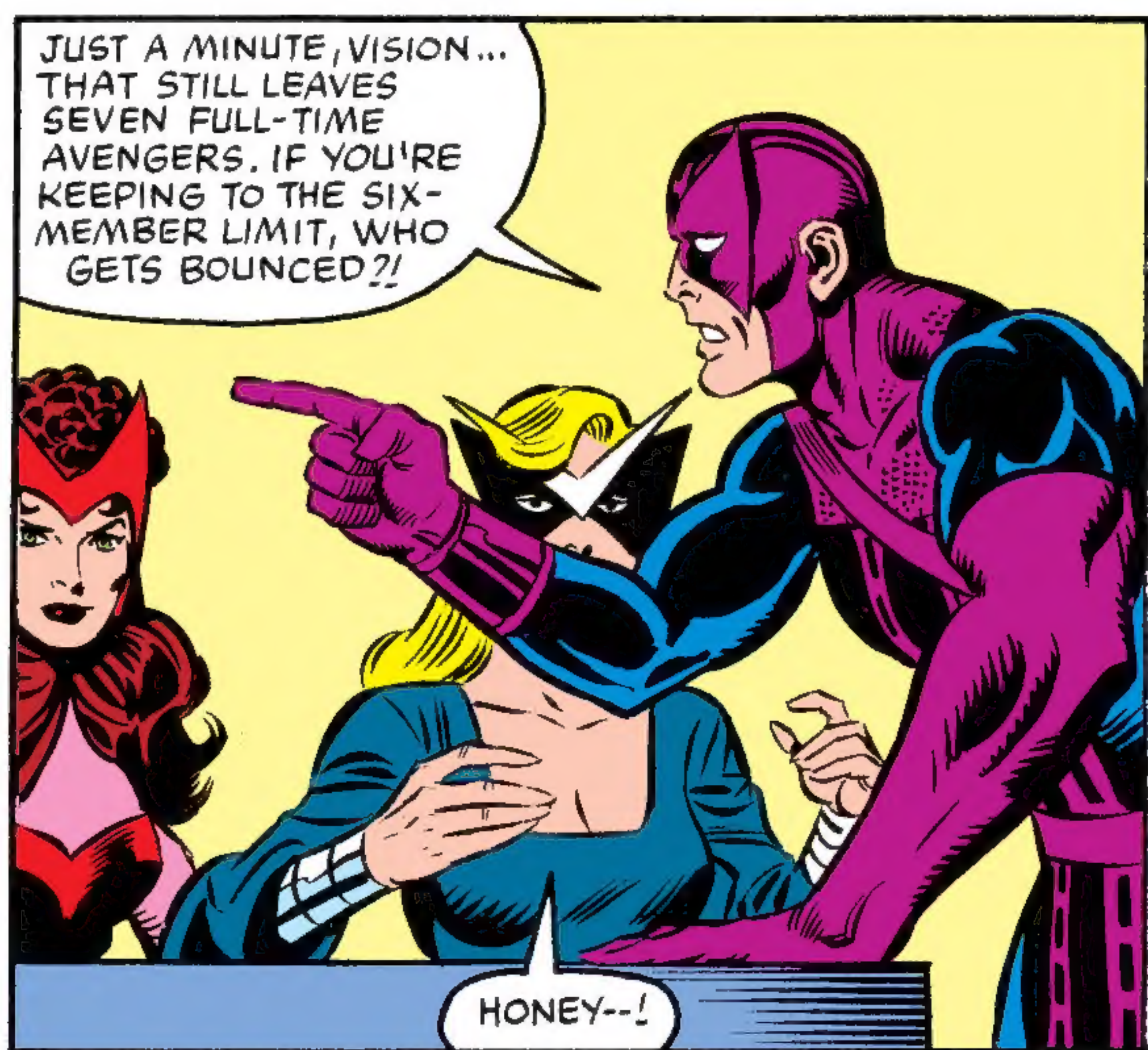
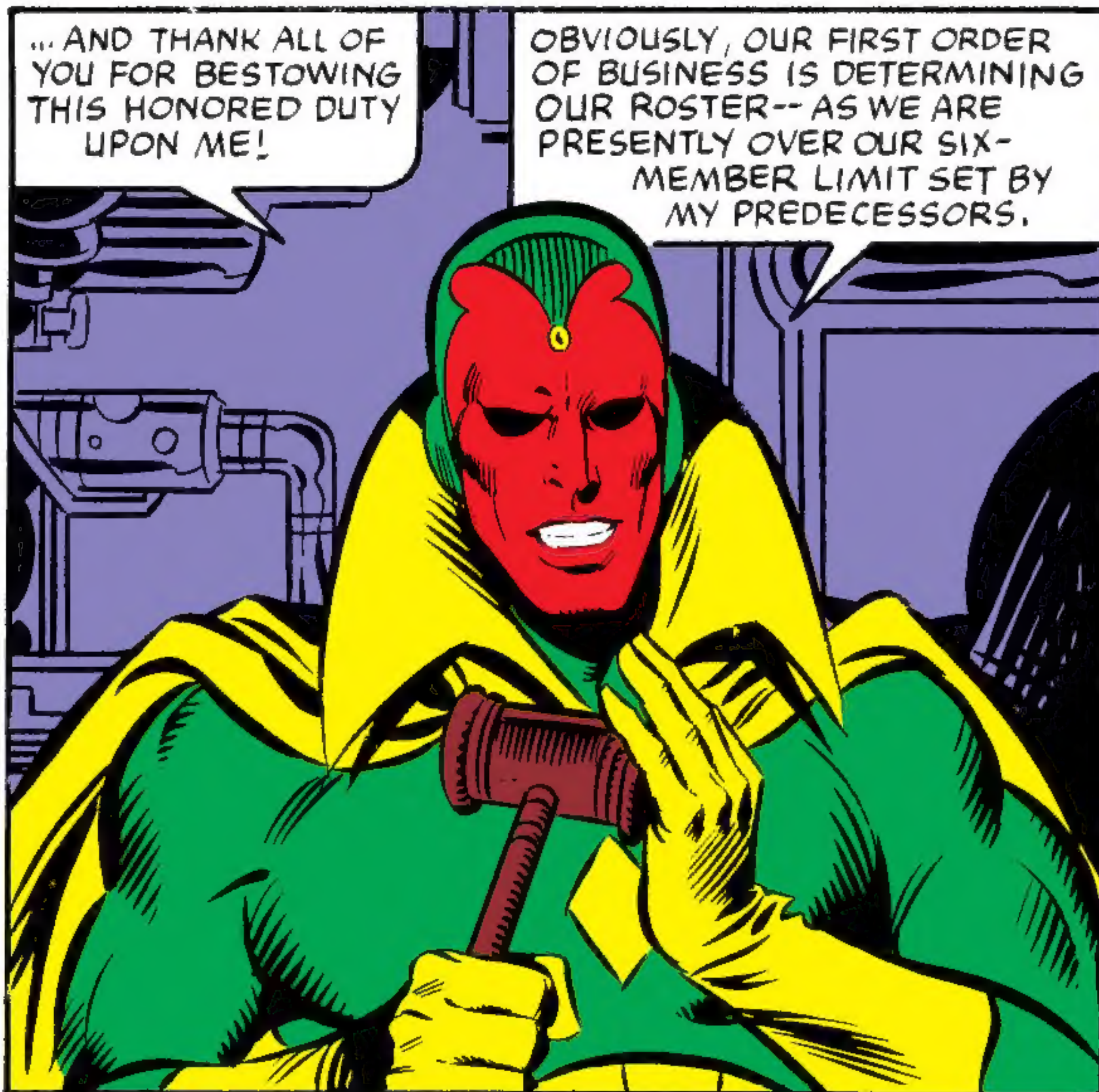
--IN THAT INSANE SECRET WAR, I DEFINITELY WANT THEM TO KNOW, BUT--!

YOU'RE NOT SURE HOW TO TELL THEM?

YEAH.









NEXT ISSUE: HAWKEYE AND MOCKINGBIRD GO WEST, QUICKSILVER COMES TO EARTH, AND THE AVENGERS BATTLE INVADERS FROM BEYOND THE STARS IN A STORY WE HAD TO CALL--

AND THE **ROCKETS'** RED GLARE!

